FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

Hymn Devotion - February 21

Scripture – Matthew 4:1-4

Mark 1:13

Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild;   
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;   
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;   
Prowling beasts about Thy way;   
Stones Thy pillow; earth Thy bed.

Shall not we Thy sorrow share  
And from worldly joys abstain,   
Fasting with unceasing prayer,   
Strong with Thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,   
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!  
Victor in the wilderness,   
Grant we may not faint nor fall!

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,   
Ever constant by Thy side;   
That with Thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

George Hun Smyttan (1822-1870)

We so lightly say that Jesus went into the desert to be tempted, this was a wild and unyielding place, and no food, no Inns, and wild and vicious animals roamed the area. We wouldn’t probably last a day, yet forty days! We would probably be ready to sell our souls for food but Jesus remained undefiled, He remained pure! Praise His Name!

1. What is the story that is this song talking about?

2. Where was Jesus and what was he doing?

3. He was tempted but remained undefiled - What does that mean?

4. Verse 2: What were the days like during these forty days?

5. What were the nights like?

6. What were prowling about?

7. Describe Jesus’ “bedroom”:

8. Verse 3: What should we share with Jesus?

9. Describe some “worldly joys”:

10. What two things go together here?

11. What should we be glad to do with Jesus?

12. Verse 4: How does Satan approach us as Christians?

13. Who should we call upon?

14. How did Jesus come out of the wilderness?

15. What is asked here?

16. Verse 5: Who are we asking to keep us?

17. Where and how often are we asking to be kept?

18. What are we asking to do?

19. Eastertide is the period following Easter. What will our eternal Eastertide be?

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

Hymn Devotion - February 22

Scripture – Matthew 25:6, 8-10

Wake, awake, for night is flying;  
The watchmen on the heights are crying:  
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices;  
Come forth, ye virgins, night is past;  
The Bridegroom comes, awake;  
Your lamps with gladness take;  
Alleluia! And for His marriage feast prepare  
For ye must go and meet Him there.

Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
For her Lord comes down all glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
Her star is risen, her light is come.  
Ah come, Thou blessèd One, God’s own belovèd Son:  
Alleluia! We follow till the halls we see  
Where Thou hast bid us sup with Thee.

Now let all the heavens adore Thee,  
And saints and angels sing before Thee,  
With harp and cymbal’s clearest tone;  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where we are with the choir immortal  
Of angels round Thy dazzling throne;  
Nor eye hath seen, nor ear hath yet attained to hear  
What there is ours, but we rejoice and sing to Thee  
Our hymn of joy eternally.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Translated by Catherine Winkworth

(1827-1878)

We are in the preparation stage of heaven, we must be ready and on watch for when Christ returns. Although we cannot even imagine what heaven is like we know “What is there is ours” because of what Jesus did for us on the cross and he arose to give us eternal life. IF we believe.

1. What is flying?

2. Is this a cry to just awake from sleep or to become alert to what is going on around us?

3. What hears the welcome voices?

4. Who arrives?

5. Where are we going to meet Him?

6. Verse 2: Zion in the New Testament is the people of God. Who may the “Watchmen” be?

7. When a person hears the Word proclaimed what three things happen?

8. List all the ways “Her Lord comes down”:

9. After the phrase “Ah, come” list the descriptions of Jesus:

10. What do we do until the halls we see?

11. What will we be invited to do?

12. Verse 3: How will heaven adore God?

13. A portal is a gate. See Rev. 21:21. What is each gate made of?

14. Who will we be with there?

15. Attained is arrived at. Now have we seen or heard or arrived at the sights and sounds of heaven?

16. But even so - What do we know?

17. Even though we only can slightly imagine heaven what do we continue to do?

How long?

THE LORD JEHOVAH REIGNS

Hymn Devotion - February 23

Scripture – Psalm 146:5-7, 10

Psalm 93:1

The Lord Jehovah reigns;

His throne is built on high.  
The garments He assumes

Are light and majesty.  
His glories shine with beams so bright

No mortal eye  
Can bear the sight.

The thunders of His hand

Keep the wide world in awe;  
His wrath and justice stand

To guard His holy law.  
And where His love  
Resolves to bless

His truth confirms and seals the grace.

Through all His mighty works

Surprising wisdom shines,  
Confounds the powers of hell,

And breaks their cursed designs.  
Strong is His arm, and shall fulfill

His great decrees, His sovereign will.

And will this mighty King

Of glory condescend,  
And will He write His name:

My Father and my Friend?  
I love His name; I love His Word.

Join, all my powers, and praise the Lord!

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

He governs, commands, is all powerful or in other words rules the roost, runs the show and calls the shots! We stand in awe of His of his power, His promises and His mighty works and those whom He decides to bless He blesses in truth and grace.

Those that know the Lord gain wisdom in His mighty works but those who are of the world are confused.

Does the Lord Jehovah reign in your life today or are you confused by His mighty works? You need not be if you believe in God as Father and Friend.

1. What does the Lord Jehovah do?

2. Where is his throne?

3. What are the garments He assumes made of?

4. What are the beams of light?

5. Can we bear the sight?

6. Verse 2: What are some words that could be put in place of thunders?

(Some suggestions: commands, miracles, promises, etc.)

7. Who is kept in awe?

8. What two things stand to guard His holy law?

9. A synonym of resolves is decides. Where He decides to bless what two things happen?

10. Verse 3: What happens to those who know the Lord and acknowledge His mighty works?

11. What two things do His might works do to the powers of Hell?

12. What does the strength of His arm fulfill?

13. Verse 4: What are the two “will” statements?

14. How does He write His Name?

15. What are the two “I loves”?

16. What are we asked to join and then do?

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Hymn Devotion - February 24

Scripture – Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7

Revelation 19:6

Come, Thou almighty King,  
Help us Thy name to sing, help us to praise!  
Father all glorious, o’er all victorious,  
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come, Thou incarnate Word,  
Gird on Thy mighty sword, our prayer attend!  
Come, and Thy people bless, and give Thy Word success,  
Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

Come, holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,  
And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of power!

To Thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be, hence, evermore.  
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,  
And to eternity love and adore!

Author unknown

Words first appeared in George Whitefield’s “Collection of Hymns for Social Worship” 1757

We are inviting this Almighty King, Incarnate Word and Holy Comforter to help us, give us the ammunition to fight life’s battles and the Holy Spirit or Comforter to manifest itself in such a way that we can bear witness to it in this glad hour! Looking forward to the time when we see Him face to face in glory but in the mean time love and adore. Amen.

1. Come has many meanings be present – Who are we asking to “Be present”?

2. List the two “help us” phrases:

3. Father all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ o’er all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. We are inviting the Almighty King to do what?

5. A definition of ancient is having lived or existed long. How long has the Almighty King been around?

6. Verse 2: Incarnate is to be made flesh. Jesus coming to earth was the Word made flesh.(John 1:1). This line is saying “Be present” whom?

7. One definition of gird is prepare for action. What prepares us for action?

8. A synonym for attend is deal with or handle. What are we asking of God?

9. What two things is the next “Come” statement asking for?

10. What are we asking to descend on us?

11. Verse 3: What is another term for Holy Comforter?

12. A definition of bear is show. What in this glad hour do we want to happen?

13. There is recognition that God is almighty and we are asking this spirit of power to do two things. List them.

14. Verse 4: Who is the Great One in Three?

15. How long is our love and adoration to last?

O DAY OF REST AND GLADNESS

Hymn Devotion - February 25

Scripture – John 4:23-24

Exodus 20:10

O day of rest and gladness,

O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,

Most beautiful, most bright:  
On thee, the high and lowly,

Through ages joined in tune,  
Sing holy, holy, holy,

To the great God Triune.

On thee, at the creation,

The light first had its birth;  
On thee, for our salvation,

Christ rose from depths of earth;  
On thee, our Lord, victorious,

The Spirit sent from Heaven,  
And thus on thee, most glorious,

A triple light was given.

Today on weary nations

The heavenly manna falls;  
To holy convocations

The silver trumpet calls,  
Where Gospel light is glowing

With pure and radiant beams,  
And living water flowing,

With soul refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining

From this our day of rest,  
We reach the rest remaining

To spirits of the blessed.  
To Holy Ghost be praises,

To Father, and to Son;  
The Church her voice upraises

To Thee, blessed Three in One.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Those who do not take the day of rest - Sunday - to hear the Word of God proclaimed, to sing praises, pray and get a new flow of soul refreshing living water are at a total disadvantage for the week that follows. Joining together with other Christians to worship and fellowship renews our souls, refreshes spirits and gives us strength to carry on!

1. List the O day adjectives; include those on the 4th line as well:

2. A definition of balm is a soothing or healing influence. What is does this day heal?

3. What are joined together?

4. What do these people do? Singing?

To whom?

5. Verse 2: What happened at creation?

6. The word “thee” indicates the day of rest and gladness –Sunday - For our salvation what happened?

7. What did the Lord victorious send?

8. How is this day described? What was given?

9. Verse 3: Is “heavenly manna” physical food? What then falls on weary nations?

10. A definition of convocations is calling together and holy is a belonging to God. What is happening in these gatherings?

11. What then flows in soul-refreshing streams?

12. Verse 4: What is gained from this day of rest?

13. How do we reach this rest?

14. Who are the three that are given praises?

15. What does the Church do and to whom?