

* Prayers Anchored in the
Gospel of John
John 3:9-15

Thursday, February 20, 2014

* Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

* The Collect

Collecting your thoughts so you can focus
on God.

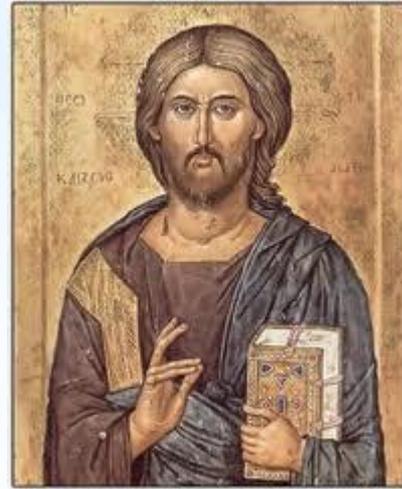
John 3:9-15 (NIV)

*⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

*¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

***Scripture**

* This is a time when you will want to contemplate the beauty of God, or to rest in His protection and love for you. Some of this may not come out in words as much as in a posture of adoration and rest.



* **Meditation**

“This story is a type of the whole mystery of the incarnation. For the serpent signifies bitter and deadly sin, which was devouring the whole race on the earth...biting the Soul of man and infusing it with the venom of wickedness. And there is no way that we could have escaped being conquered by it, except by the relief that comes only from heaven.

The Word of God then was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, ‘that he might condemn sin in the flesh,’ as it is written [Rom 8:3]. In this way, he becomes the Giver of unending salvation to those who ...gaze on him with steadfast faith. But the serpent, being fixed upon a lofty base, signifies that Christ was clearly manifested by his passion on the cross, so that none could fail to see him.”

 **Meditation**

*Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on the Gospel of John 2.1;
Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture series, IVa 123*

Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name*

Verses:

- 1) *Come, Christian, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.*
- 2) *Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of him who died.*
- 3) *O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.*
- 4) *So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!*



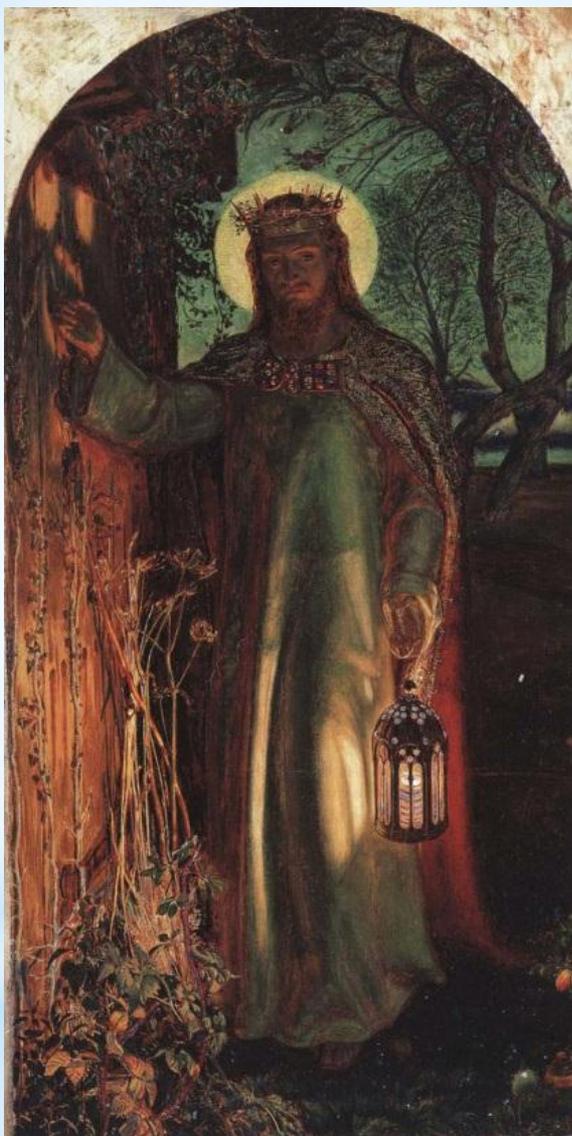
George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916 (public domain)

To listen, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbcBXYP4AIE>.



- * Take time to remember your salvation and be thankful.
- * This is an example of my response: “Jesus, we thank you for your glorious gift to us on the cross. We praise you Father for the new birth that comes by your gift of faith. We praise you Holy Spirit for your mysterious and unseen work in our hearts.”

* Prayer



Pray for those who, like Nicodemus in this passage, do not understand the “heavenly things.” Pray that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened. Ask the Father how he may use you. As Theresa of Avila (1515-1582) encourages us, “Christ has ...no hands, no feet on earth but yours.”

*Prayer

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
The LORD turn his face toward you and
give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

***Blessing**