



Daily Prayer
+ Saturday, March 21, 2020 +

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

C: Glory be to Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 11

L: In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain, for behold, the wicked bend the bow;

C: they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

L: The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

C: The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

L: For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

[1] I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

[2] I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

[3] I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

Reading

Mark 11:1-19

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from

you again." And his disciples heard it. And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today teaches on God's judgment and on the need for repentance and faith in Christ.

The reading takes place on Palm Sunday. Jesus has entered the city of Jerusalem to the shouts of the crowds:
"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:9-10)

The king has arrived in his city. Yet, when he arrived, what did he find? He found that his temple was filled with money-changers. Men were buying and selling in the Father's house of prayer. The king found a den of robbers in the holy temple.

Because of this, Jesus carried out an act of judgment against the city and against the religious authorities in the temple. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.

And as a prophetic sign of this judgment of God, Jesus cursed the barren fig tree outside of the city: "*May no one ever eat fruit from you again.*" (Mark 11:14)

Our reading is a reminder of the judgment of God over sin. A reminder that we are sinners and that God sits in judgment on sin. It is a call to repentance before God. The need for all of us to acknowledge our sin and repent. We are all unworthy of the king. Like barren fig trees, our good works are dried up. Nothing good abides in us.

Which is why we need this king. We need him to call us to repentance and to faith. We need him to overturn the tables of sin in our lives so that we can be cleansed like the temple and restored.

Jesus overturns the tables in judgment. But then he will go to the cross in mercy and he will die for our sins and his blood will cleanse us and make us new.

Mercy follows judgment. They are two sides of the same coin. The king who comes into the city in judgment is the same king who will be crucified for our sins in mercy.

And so our reading is an encouragement again to the basics of the Christian faith: repentance over sin and faith in Jesus Christ. May they be ours this Lenten season. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Collect

L: God of our salvation, your beloved Son entered the Holy City to shouts of "Hosanna!" for truly he came in the name of the Lord. Give us faith to grasp the mystery of his suffering, death, and resurrection on our behalf as we journey with him this Lenten season to the cross and, beyond that, to the empty tomb; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

[1] Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

[2] From Olivet they followed
Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving
And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of men and heaven
Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.

[3] "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!