



Daily Prayer
+ Friday, March 27, 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 77

L: I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

C: I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

L: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?

C: You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

L: You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph.

C: When the waters saw you, O God, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled.

L: Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

C: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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.

Hymn

537

[1] *Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my crown.*

[2] *Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.*

[3] *Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.*

[4] *Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!*

Reading

Mark 13:24-37

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know

that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today teaches on always being prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. As he lifted up from the earth, he blessed the apostles and promised that he would return. On the Last Day, Jesus will return from heaven to raise the dead and to gather all of mankind before him for judgment.

As he said, "*Surely I am coming soon.*" (Revelation 22:20)
And so we pray, "*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*" (Revelation 22:20)

The date of his return, however, is unknown. As Jesus said, "*Concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*" (Mark 13:32) Just as no one knows the day or the month or the year in which they will die and go to be with the Lord in heaven; so also the world itself does not know when the end will come. Jesus could return today, or a thousand years from now. The date is unknown; but his coming will be sudden, like a thief in the night.

And so Jesus warns us: "*Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.*" (Mark 13:33) The concern to be on guard and to keep awake is a warning. A reminder to persevere in the faith and to be ready at all times for the end. We need to prepare so that we are ready to meet the Lord at any time.

And how should we prepare to meet the Lord? We should prepare through repentance and through faith.

First, we should always and continually live in a state of repentance. We are called by God to acknowledge our sinful nature and to confess our sins; to admit our faults and our need for a Savior. As John preached, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (Matthew 3:2)

Second, we should look to Christ in faith for the forgiveness of sins. His blood shed on the cross has atoned for our

sins and reconciled us to God. Through faith in Christ we have peace with God and hope of eternal life. Put your trust in the Lord and you will be saved at his coming.

Then, third, we should bear fruit in keeping with repentance. As Paul writes, *"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."* (Galatians 5:22-25)

This, then, is a simple outline for our preparations for the Lord's coming. Be on guard through repentance. Stay awake through faith. Bear fruit being led by the Spirit. In this way, we will be prepared to meet the Lord at any time. 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: Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Hymn

746

[1] Through Jesus' blood and merit
I am at peace with God.
What, then, can daunt my spirit,
However dark my road?
My courage shall not fail me,
For God is on my side;

Though hell itself assail me,
Its rage I may deride.

[2] There's nothing that can sever
From this great love of God;
No want, no pain whatever,
No famine, peril, flood.
Though thousand foes surround me,
For slaughter mark His sheep,
They never shall confound me,
The vict'ry I shall reap.

[3] For neither life's temptation
Nor death's so trying hour
Nor angels of high station
Nor any other pow'r
Nor things that now are present
Nor things that are to come
Nor height, however pleasant,
Nor darkest depths of gloom

[4] Nor any creature ever
Shall from the love of God
This wretched sinner sever;
For in my Savior's blood
This love has its foundation;
God hears my faithful prayer
And long before creation
Named me His child and heir.