



Daily Prayer
+ Monday, March 30, 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 31

L: In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

C: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!

L: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

C: For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

L: You take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

C: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

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

668

[1] Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you;
For Satan has designed your fall.

Wield God's Word, the weapon glorious;
Against all foes be thus victorious.
For God protects you from them all.
Fear not the hordes of hell,
Here is Emmanuel. Hail the Savior!
The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield,
And we, the victors, hold the field.

[2] Cast afar this world's vain pleasure
And boldly strive for heav'nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior's might.
Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
For Jesus from all harm will hide you.
By faith you conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul!
Look forward to the goal! Joy awaits you.
The race well run, Your long war won,
Your crown shines splendid as the sun.

[3] Wisely fight, for time is fleeting;
The hours of grace are fast retreating;
Short, short is this our earthly way.
When the Lord the dead will waken
And sinners all by fear are shaken,
The saints with joy will greet that day.
Praise God, our triumph's sure.
We need not long endure Scorn and trial.
Our Savior King His own will bring
To that great glory which we sing.

Reading

Mark 14:32-52

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. And Jesus

said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." And they all left him and fled. And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Tradition holds that the young man at the end of our reading today is John Mark, the author of the Gospel of Mark. Mark is the "*young man*" who "*followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.*" (Mark 14:51-52)

If true, this detail of the account is included by Mark in his Gospel because of his own personal experience and remembrance of the scene at Gethsemane. And this is important because it reminds us that the Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus are not myths or legends, but historical records and eyewitness testimony to what God has done in the world through Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus was are real, flesh and blood man, born of Mary in Bethlehem. He lived a real life in Galilee of Israel and died for our sins under the reign of Pontius Pilate in

Jerusalem in 33 A.D. A real man in a real place doing real things. And this means a real salvation.

Our hope in Christ is not wishful thinking or a theoretical wish. No, our hope in Christ is grounded in reality and consists in an actual salvation.

As John writes, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."* (1 John 1:1-4)

The Bible is written to convey the truth of our salvation, grounded in history, accomplished by a real man Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There is a solid foundation to the Christian faith. Yes, our religion is a *faith* in the sense that it is necessary that we *believe* the promises of God. But those promises of God are not abstract principles or myths or legends. No, the promises of God were given through real prophets and were accomplished by a real Savior.

Mark saw him. Mark knew him. Mark was there in the Garden of Gethsemane. He even makes note of an embarrassing feature of the account: that he was asleep

that night and dressed only in a linen cloth, a cloth that was seized by the soldiers who had come to arrest Jesus, such that Mark had to run away naked. This embarrassing feature of the account is included in the Gospel because that's what actually happened and Mark is careful to record for us the truth.

And the truth is important. It is the truth of the life of Jesus that is our salvation. 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, in the Garden of Gethsemane you suffered the agony of drinking from the cup of your Father's wrath against our sin. Give us strength to remain awake as we now wait and watch for your coming; 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

436

[1] Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

[2] Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

[3] Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

[4] Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.