



Daily Prayer
+ Tuesday, March 31, 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 73

L: Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

C: But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

L: For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

C: They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

L: Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

C: You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

L: Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

C: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

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

754, v. 1-3

- [1] Entrust your days and burdens
To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests
Along their thund'rous ways
Will find for you a pathway
And guide you all your days.
- [2] Rely on God your Savior
And find your life secure.
Make His work your foundation
That your work may endure.
No anxious thought, no worry,
No self-tormenting care
Can win your Father's favor;
His heart is moved by prayer.
- [3] Take heart, have hope, my spirit
And do not be dismayed;
God helps in ev'ry trial
And makes you unafraid.
Await His time with patience
Through darkest hours of night
Until the sun you hoped for
Delights your eager sight.

Reading

Mark 14:53-72

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows. And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he

went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

King Solomon said, "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" (Proverbs 16:18) In this proverb, Solomon compares pride with a haughty spirit and destruction with a fall. To be haughty in spirit is to be full of pride. And to fall is to be destroyed.

Here Solomon uses the metaphor of walking and of falling while walking as a way for describing destruction. To be destroyed spiritually is to fall while walking in the faith.

The metaphor of walking is used throughout the Bible as a description of Christian faith. To put your faith in God and to live as a disciple of Christ is to walk along the road which leads to salvation.

As Jesus said, *"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."* (Matthew 7:13-14)

There is a road which leads back to God. It is the narrow road of repentance over sin and faith in Jesus Christ. He is the way back to the Father. And it is through him alone that we find our way to salvation.

And the Christian life is compared in the New Testament to a walk of faith. And so Paul writes: *"I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."* (Ephesians 4:1) And, *"You must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds."* (Ephesians 4:17) And, *"walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."* (Ephesians 5:2) And, *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."* (Ephesians 5:15-16)

In our reading from Mark 14 today, Peter serves as a warning as he falls down in his walk of faith. His spiritual pride is on display in Gethsemane when Jesus warns him: *"You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."* Peter said to him, *"Even though they all fall away, I will not."* And Jesus said to him, *"Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."* But

he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same." (Mark 14:27-31)

Peter serves as a negative example here. He is unable to consider the possibility that he will fall in his walk of faith. Why? Because of his pride. As Solomon said, "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" (Proverbs 16:18)

We are all walking a life of faith and there are many obstacles in our way. There are many temptations to sin. There are many distractions from the road that leads to Christ.

Yet the Word of God is a guide for our feet today; a light for our path. The Scriptures provide a warning. Keep your pride in check. Remember that the road is difficult and narrow. And fix your eyes on Jesus, up ahead. He alone is way and truth and the life. Follow him, keep close to him on the path, and the way is sure.

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, you are the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father apart from you. Keep us on the narrow way through repentance and true faith; for your 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

754, v. 4-6

- [4] Leave all to His direction;
His wisdom rules for you
In ways to rouse your wonder
At all His love can do.
Soon He, His promise keeping,
With wonder-working pow'rs
Will banish from your spirit
What gave you troubled hours.
- [5] O blessed heir of heaven,
You'll hear the song resound
Of endless jubilation
When you with life are crowned.
In your right hand your maker
Will place the victor's palm,
And you will thank Him gladly
With heaven's joyful psalm.
- [6] Our hand and feet, Lord, strengthen;
With joy our spirits bless
Until we see the ending
Of all our life's distress.
And so throughout our lifetime
Keep us within Your care
And at our end then bring us
To heav'n to praise You there.