



Daily Prayer
+ Tuesday, April 14, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 81:1-7

L: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

C: Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.

L: Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day. For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

C: He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt.

L: I hear a language I had not known: "I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket.

C: In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

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

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[1] All the earth with joy is sounding:
Christ has risen from the dead!
He, the greater Jonah, bounding
From the grave, His three-day bed,
Wins the prize: death's demise--
Songs of triumph fill the skies.

[2] Christ, the devil's might unwinding,
Leaves behind His borrowed tomb.
Stronger He, the strong man binding,
Takes, disarms his house of doom;
In the rout casting out
Pow'rs of darkness, sin, and doubt.

[3] Jesus, author of salvation,
Shared in our humanity;
Crowned with radiant exaltation
Now He shares His victory!
From His face shines the grace
Meant for all our fallen race.

[4] Praise the Lord, His reign commences,
Reign of life and liberty--
Paschal Lamb, for our offenses,
Slain and raised to set us free!
Evermore bow before
Christ, the Lord of Life adore!

Reading

Hebrews 10:1-18

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he

said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

In our reading today from Hebrews 10, the apostle Paul extols Christ and reminds his readers that Christ is superior to the Old Testament priests and their imperfect sacrifices.

The Law of Moses and its elaborate system for gaining access to God's grace was but a *"shadow of the good things to come"*. (Hebrews 10:1) Just as a shadow is of less value than the object which causes the shadow; so also the Gospel of Christ is of more value than the Law of Moses. The good things have now come in Christ and they are to be received with thanksgiving and praise of God.

In particular, Paul is concerned with the power and efficacy of the Old Testament sacrifices. As Paul writes, the weakness of the temple sacrifices was that they, *"can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near."* (Hebrews 10:1)

Temple sacrifices were commanded by God to atone for the sins of the people; but they were merely *"shadows of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities"*. (Hebrews 10:1) Why? Because, *"it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."* (Hebrews 10:4) Human sin requires a human atonement. Man must die for sin.

And so, when the Son of God came into the world he came as a man in order to offer a more perfect sacrifice, once and for all for sin. Good Friday requires Christmas; a human child born to offer atonement for human sin. And he did so with his body broken and his blood shed on the cross. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the one, final, perfect sacrifice for sin, which once and for all atones for all human sin and, *"makes perfect those who draw near to God"*. (Hebrews 10:1)

And so Paul writes that the weakness of the Old Testament sacrifices, which were of animals and needed to be repeated over and over, were overcome through the far superior and completely effective sacrifice of Christ: *"And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."* (Hebrews 10:10)

For us, this means that through the perfect sacrifice of Christ we have access to God. Easter means that we can draw near to God again. We can draw near to him in prayer. We can draw near to him in holy communion. We can draw near to him in faith. Now and forever, through Christ, we are near to God. 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: Almighty God, through the resurrection of your Son you have secured peace for our troubled consciences. Grant us this peace evermore that trusting in the merit of your Son we may come at last to the perfect peace of heaven; 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] Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- [2] For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- [3] Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- [4] Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!