



Daily Prayer
+ Wednesday, April 15, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 134

L: Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

C: Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!

L: May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made
heaven and earth!

C: Praise the 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.**

Hymn

464

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[1] The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

[2] The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

[3] The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

[4] He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

[5] Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reading

Hebrews 10:19-39

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of

the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from Hebrews 10 teaches on endurance in the faith in the face of suffering and trouble and persecution. As Paul writes, *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who*

promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23) We are called to remain faithful to Christ because Christ is faithful to us.

Paul takes note that many in the congregation had endured hardship because of their faith in Christ. They had *"endured a hard struggle with sufferings"*. They had been *"publicly exposed to reproach and affliction"*. And even if they had not personally endured such troubles, they had *"sometimes been partners with those so treated"*.

In response to this, Paul invites the congregation not to give up hope, but to endure in their faith. And one of his helpful suggestions for endurance is that they continue to meet together as a church: *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Here Paul reminds us that the congregation itself and the fellowship of meeting together as church is a gift from God designed for our encouragement.

Our country is going through a challenging time this spring, working hard to fight a viral epidemic. What makes the fight even more challenging and difficult is that one of the gifts that God has given to us for encouragement during suffering, the gathering together of the church, has also been taken away. This makes our experience a double suffering: not only the virus, but also isolation from our church family.

But be encouraged. Our separation is only temporary. Jesus is ever faithful and always present. Your church family is not going away. Soon we will be able to meet together again.

In the meantime, let us hold onto our faith and endure suffering as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. No obstacle can take away our faith in the Lord. He died for us and rose from the dead for our salvation. Together our faith is in him. And he is faithful.

And so Paul writes, *"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."* (Hebrews 10:35-36) 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, by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Grant that we who have been raised with him may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; 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.

Hymn

465

[1] Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[2] Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[3] O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[4] Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!