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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Thursday, April 16, 2020 +**

## Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 114*

L: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob  
from a people of strange language, Judah became his  
sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

**C: The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back. The  
mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.**

L: What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you  
turn back?

**C: O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like  
lambs?**

L: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the  
presence of the God of Jacob,

**C: who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a  
spring of water.**

**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

# 467

[1] Awake, my heart, with gladness,  
See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness,  
Comes forth the glorious sun.  
My Savior there was laid  
Where our bed must be made  
When to the realms of light  
Our spirit wings its flight.

[2] The foe in triumph shouted  
When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But lo, he now is routed,  
His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free;  
In glorious victory  
He who is strong to save  
Has triumphed o'er the grave.

[3] This is a sight that gladdens--  
What peace it does impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens  
The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake,  
No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son  
In love for me has won.

## **Reading**

## **Hebrews 11:1-29**

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please*

him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He

*considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson**

Our reading today from Hebrews 11 extols faith and trust in God. God is our hope and salvation and he has revealed himself to us in the Word of God and has called us to

faith. And as Paul writes, "*faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.*" (Heb. 1:1)

Faith is a confident trust in God. Confident: because the Word of God is certain and true. Trust: because God is faithful and can be relied on in all things. And this faith comes with a reward: *by it the people of old received their commendation.*

God commends our faith and rewards it; not because it is a good work that merits favor from God or has earned anything; but simply because faith receives the good things which God offers.

God is the giver and we receive his gifts through faith. This is what the ancients were commended for and this is the goal of our life before God: to trust in him and to rely on his goodness forever. May our faith be found in God alone. 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**

**# 467**

[4] Now hell, its prince, the devil,  
Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
Now I am safe from evil,

And sin I laugh to scorn.  
Grim death with all its might  
Cannot my soul affright;  
It is a pow'rless form,  
Howe'er it rave and storm.

[5] The world against me rages,  
Its fury I disdain;  
Though bitter war it wages,  
Its work is all in vain.  
My heart from care is free,  
No trouble troubles me.  
Misfortune now is play,  
And night is bright as day.

[6] Now I will cling forever  
To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never,  
Whate'er he passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain;  
He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's grim thrall;  
I follow Him through all.

[7] He brings me to the portal  
That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal  
Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross has shared  
Find here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died  
Shall here be glorified."