



Daily Prayer
+ Saturday, April 18, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 30:3,8-12

L: O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

C: To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy.

L: What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

C: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!

L: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

C: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you 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

469

[1] "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.

[2] Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

[3] Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

[4] Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Once He died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

[5] Soar we now where Christ has led;
Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

[6] Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

Reading

Hebrews 13:1-21

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage

bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who

brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading through the Book of Hebrews since the beginning of Holy Week has come to an end and Paul concludes his encouraging letter with an invitation to hold onto Christ through faith and to do good.

He summarizes the will and law of God with a short list of good works which outline the Christian life:

- Love one another.
- Show hospitality to strangers.
- Remember those who are in prison.
- Honor marriage.
- Keep free from the love of money and be content with what you have.
- Imitate the faith of leaders in the church.
- Turn away from false teaching.
- Offer to God a sacrifice of praise.
- Do good and share with those in need.
- Obey your leaders and pray for them.

The virtues of the Christian life can be summarized with one word: love. Love God and love one another. Jesus summarized the Law in two simple commands: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."* (Matthew 22:37-40)

Paul understood this and so he outlines the virtues of the Christian life with a summary list of examples as to what this looks like. His simple phrase of summary is easy to remember: *"Do good."* (Hebrews 13:16)

There are an infinite number of concrete decisions which we are asked to make in life and God does not give us a specific answer or directive for every decision. Instead, God has given us a guiding principle: Love God and love one another. Do good. This is what pleases God.

And then Paul concludes his book with a blessing: *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.* (Hebrews 13:20-21)

May that blessing of God be ours this day and always.
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, you are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow you, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; 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

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[1] Our Pascal Lamb, that set us free,
Is sacrificed. O keep
The feast of freedom gallantly;
Let alleluias leap:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Again sing alleluia, cry aloud:
Alleluia! Amen!

[2] Let all our lives celebrate
The feast; let malice die.
Let love grow strong anew, and great,
Let truth stamp out the lie.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Again sing alleluia, cry aloud:
Alleluia! Amen!

[3] Let all our deeds, unanimous,
Confess Him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us,
The Father's living Word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Again sing alleluia, cry aloud:
Alleluia! Amen!