



Daily Prayer
+ Friday, April 24, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 92:1-9

L: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

C: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

L: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

C: How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

L: The fool cannot understand this: that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever.

C: But you, O LORD, are on high 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

#481

[1] Scatter the darkness, break the gloom;
Sun, reveal an empty tomb
Shining with joy for all our sorrows,
Hope and peace for all tomorrows,
Life uneclipsed by doubt and dread:
Christ has risen from the dead!

[2] Bearing the standard from on high
As the Lamb of God to die;
He who for us, so cruelly treated,
Lives again-- our foes defeated!
Where is your sting, O death and grave?
Christ has shown His strength to save!

[3] Banners of triumph, be unfurled!
Trumpets, sound throughout the world!
Crying and sighs, give way to singing:
Life from death, our Lord is bringing!
Let there begin the jubilee--
Christ has gained the victory!

Reading

Matthew 28:1-20

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet

and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

At the end of our reading today from Matthew 28, Jesus meets with his disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gives them their mission: to go and make disciples of all nations. This is known as the Great Commission and it puts in summary the goal and work of the church during

the Church Age, the time between our Lord's Ascension into heaven and his Return on the Last Day.

For forty days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and completed his teaching on the kingdom of God. Just as Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai for forty days and was given the Law; so now the apostles met with Jesus in Jerusalem and Galilee for forty days and were given the Gospel. And when the forty days were complete, Jesus gave them their mission: to go and make disciples of all nations.

First, they must go. The Gospel of Christ is a word of reconciliation and peace between God and humanity. It is a universal Gospel meant for all people, of every nation and language and tongue. The Gospel is not meant for the Jews alone, or for any one tribe of people; but for every nation and every tribe. And so the apostles are told by Jesus to go out from Jerusalem and Judea and Galilee into all the world.

And while they are going, they are told to make disciples. How? Through baptism and teaching.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

The primary goal of the church is simple and clear: to make disciples. Salvation is by grace through faith and so the goal is to instill repentance and faith in the hearts of people--which is to say make disciples. And the method is simple and clear: baptism and teaching. Through baptism and teaching, as through means, the Holy Spirit will give repentance and faith to the nations.

Go and make disciples. That is the mission plan of Jesus and it has been carried out now in all the world for 2000 years. And we are part of this great mission endeavor. Not only have we been made disciples through baptism and teaching; we have now been called to share this faith with others, making more disciples, through baptism and teaching. We who have been caught in the net of Christ and gathered into the boat of the church are now being called to become fishers of men.

This is the Easter plan of Jesus for a world-wide mission of the church. And so today we rejoice that we have become part of the body of Christ through baptism and teaching. And today we rejoice to make disciples of our neighbors and friends and family, also through baptism and teaching. May God grant it for Jesus sake. 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, our Sabbath rest, you called the twelve apostles to go out into all the world to carry on your proclamation of the kingdom of God. May your church with its apostolic foundation continue to announce the good news that in you there is healing and forgiveness of sins; for you live with the Father and the 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.

- [1] He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.
- [2] The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.
- [3] But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.
- [4] O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
- [5] Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.