



Daily Prayer
+ Thursday, April 30, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 99:5-9

L: Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool!

C: Holy is he!

L: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called upon his name.

C: They called to the LORD, and he answered them.

L: In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them.

C: O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

L: Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

C: for the LORD our God is holy!

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

#490, v. 1-2

[1] Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

[2] Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Reading

John 21:1-14

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full

of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from John 21 teaches on the mission calling of the apostles and on the evangelization of the world through the church. In this reading, the disciples are back in Galilee a few weeks after Easter, where Jesus will appear to them, for the third time, risen from the dead.

This return to Galilee corresponds well with the sacred calendar in Israel. The disciples had originally traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover and fifty days later they would need to return again to Jerusalem for Pentecost. In between these two great festivals, the faithful in Israel would return to their homes. It would have been customary and expected for the disciples to return to Galilee following the Passover in Jerusalem, prior to returning for the feast of Pentecost.

And so, in John 21, the disciples have returned to Galilee, to the Sea of Tiberias, another name for the Sea of Galilee. And Jesus appears to them, physically risen from the dead, while they are out fishing.

One curious feature of this appearance of Jesus is the exact count that is recorded by John of the number of fish which were caught in the net by the disciples: 153.

As John writes, *So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.* (John 21:11)

There are many speculations about the number 153. Does the number have any symbolic significance?

Some say, no: 153 is simply the number of fish they caught, with no purpose or meaning attached to it. The number is just a detail of an historical event, recorded by John, an eyewitness.

Others find meaning in the number. For instance, according to Jerome, Greek naturalists considered there to be 153 different kinds of fish in the world. If that's the case, the image of the disciples catching one large fish, from every kind of fish, would signify the mission of the church to gather in disciples from every nation and tribe and language throughout the world.

That image is a good one and consistent with the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. As Jesus said: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was*

thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind." (Matthew 13:47)

It is God's will that people of every kind would come to him in repentance and true faith and put their confidence in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life. Men and women; young and old; Jew and Gentile.

And so Jesus comes to his disciples in our reading today and renews their calling to preach to all nations. This is a second Great Commission moment for Peter and James and John and the other four disciples; a reminder that Jesus has called his church to go out into all the world and to gather together a community of believers from every tribe, language, and tongue.

May this Gospel mission be ours today as well. 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: O God, for our redemption you gave your Son to the death of the cross and by his resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that our sin be drowned through daily repentance, that we might live before you in righteousness; 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

490, v. 3-5

[3] Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

[4] Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

[5] Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence.