



Daily Prayer
+ Tuesday, April 7, 2020 +

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O 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.

Psalmody

Psalm 88:3-9

L: My soul is full of troubles.

C: I am a man who has no strength.

L: You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep.

C: Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

L: I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

C: Every day I call upon you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you.

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

915

[1] Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,

Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

[2] Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

[3] Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

[4] O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

Reading

Hebrews 3:1-19

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses —as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in

the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today teaches on endurance in the faith; holding onto faith in Christ over the long haul. As has been said before: Christianity is a long-distance run more than it is a short sprint. Our goal is not simply to be converted to Christ, to run for a while; but to maintain faith in him over time, to run the race of faith to the end.

In the Book of Hebrews, Paul is writing to Jewish Christians who are being tempted by their neighbors and friends to abandon the church and to return to the synagogue. They are being pressured by their family and friends to renounce Christ and to return to their old faith.

And so Paul extols Christ in the Book of Hebrews. He teaches that Christ is superior to the angels in chapters 1 and 2. That Jesus is greater than Moses in chapters 3 and 4. That Jesus is superior to all High Priests in chapters 4 through 7. That Jesus alone is the one, final, perfect sacrifice that atones for all human sin in chapters 8 through 10. There is no need to return to the synagogue; every spiritual blessing is found in Christ who fulfills the Old Testament.

Christ is not to be turned away from. It was not a mistake for the Jewish Christians to move on from Moses and to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. It would be spiritual disaster for them to return to the synagogue from the church. Christ is the fulfillment and the end of all of God's promises.

And so Paul encourages them to hold on to their faith: *"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."* (Hebrews 3:12-14)

Through faith we have come to share in Christ. And our goal is to hold our original confidence firm to the end. This calls for endurance and perseverance in the faith. Among the virtues of our faith are steadfastness, long-suffering, perseverance. These things are beneficial because they preserve and keep what is valuable over time.

Our journey from baptism to the glory of heaven can be a long one, challenging and difficult in so many ways. Yet we are encouraged today from our reading in Hebrews to remain steady. To hold on to Christ. To take care to avoid unbelief and sin. To exhort and encourage one another along the way. May we do so faithfully. 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 and everlasting God, grant us by your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; 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

537

[1] Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my crown.

[2] Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

[3] Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

[4] Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!