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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Wednesday, April 8, 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 89:20-27*

L: I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him,

**C: so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.**

L: The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.

**C: I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.**

L: My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

**C: I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.**

L: He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

**C: And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.**

**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

# 453, v. 1-4

- [1] Upon the cross extended  
See, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields His breath.  
The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.
- [2] Come, see these things and ponder,  
Your soul will fill with wonder  
As blood streams from each pore.  
Through grief beyond all knowing  
From His great heart came flowing  
Sighs welling from its deepest core.
- [3] Who is it, Lord, that bruised You?  
Who has so sore abused You  
And caused You all Your woe?  
We all must make confession  
Of sin and dire transgression  
While You no ways of evil know.
- [4] I caused Your grief and sighing  
By evils multiplying  
As countless as the sands.  
I caused the woes unnumbered  
With which Your soul is cumbered  
Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

## Reading

## Hebrews 4:1-16

*Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us*

*hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

Our reading today from Hebrews 4 teaches on the goal of our faith: entering into the eternal rest of Jesus.

In yesterday's reading, Paul encouraged us to endure and persevere in our faith until the end. He exhorted us to "*hold our original confidence firm to the end*". (Hebrews 3:14) Paul's prayer was that we would hold on to Christ through faith until we reach the end of our race of faith.

And what is the end of our race of faith? The end of faith is entering into the eternal rest of Jesus. As Paul writes, "*So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest.*" (Hebrews 4:9-11)

The eternal, perfect sabbath rest of God was pre-figured in the Old Testament through the gift of the Sabbath day. The people of Israel were to work for six days and rest on the seventh. This Sabbath day of rest was in imitation of God who created the world in six days and rested on the

seventh. The Sabbath was a sign of God's intention to give us rest from our labors.

The eternal, perfect sabbath rest of God was also pre-figured in the Old Testament when the people of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt and found rest in the promised land, the land of Canaan.

These, however, were only pre-figures and signs of the eternal rest which would be won by Christ through his death and resurrection, an eternal rest which would be available to all who put their faith in Christ.

Jesus is our rest. He has won for us rest from the hard work of earning God's forgiveness. He has won for us rest from the hard work of paying God back for our sins. The hard work of reconciling God to humanity has been accomplished by Christ on the cross. The work of salvation is finished. And so Jesus rests in the tomb on Saturday of holy week; a sign that the work is now over and that our rest has begun.

It is Wednesday of Holy Week and our eyes soon turn again to the cross. We watch as Jesus works for our salvation. We come to him again to find rest from all work before God. He takes up our burden and he bears it. May we find our rest in him again this Holy Week.

As he said, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28) 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**

**# 453, 5-7**

[5] Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
Your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me.  
The cross for me enduring,  
The crown for me securing,  
You healed my wounds and set me free.

[6] Your cords of love, my Savior,  
Bind me to You forever,  
I am no longer mine.  
To You I gladly tender  
All that my life can render  
And all I have to You resign.

[7] Your cross I place before me;  
Its saving pow'r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.  
It will, when life is ending,  
Be guiding and attending  
My way to Your eternal rest.