



Daily Prayer
+ Friday, May 1, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 100

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness!

C: Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God!

L: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

C: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

L: Give thanks to him; bless his name!

C: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

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

#970

[1] Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us.
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.
Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us.
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Reading

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from John 21 reports on the reconciliation of Peter and his restoration as an apostle and disciple of the Lord.

Like the other disciples, but even more so, Peter had turned away from Jesus on the night of his betrayal and three times fell into temptation. Three times that night Peter

denied Jesus, even to the point of swearing oaths that he did not know him. Three times Peter failed the Lord and refused to take up his cross and follow him. This fall of Peter was especially terrible because of Peter's previous promise and boast: *"Lord...I will lay down my life for you."* (John 13:37)

This was a boast and a promise that Peter could not keep. And in his weakness of faith, Peter fell and betrayed the Lord. Yet, unlike Judas, Peter was full of sorrow over his sin and turned again quickly in repentance and faith back to Jesus.

Because of this, and because of his grace, three times Jesus comes to Peter in John 21 and invites him to confess his faith and to be restored. Three times Peter denied him; three times Peter will confess him. And through these three confessions of love and faith, Peter is restored to the faith.

"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves him. Three times Peter says, "Yes." Three times Jesus restores him as a disciple and apostle and gives him his commission as an under-shepherd of the Chief Shepherd: *"Feed my lambs." ... "Tend my sheep." ... "Feed my sheep."*

We are meant to be encouraged by our reading today. Disciples of Jesus who fall into sin, who fail the Lord

through weakness and unbelief, disciples who do not live up to their own expectations, are called by Christ to return to him and to be restored. There is no sin so great that it would result in Jesus sending us away for good. There is no failing in us so big that he would turn us away forever. No, in this life, Jesus ever calls us back to himself for healing and forgiveness and restoration.

The fall of Peter was great; but the love of Jesus was even greater. And so Jesus restored fallen Peter and called him to serve him again.

Later in his life, Peter would remember these words of Jesus and his call to feed the Lord's sheep and he would pass them on to other pastors in the church: *So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.* (1 Peter 5:1-4)

May this work of reconciliation and restoration in Peter's life be an inspiration for us as well as we follow our good and gracious Shepherd. 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 God, merciful Father, since you have wakened from death the Shepherd of your sheep, grant us your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know him who calls us each by name and follow where he leads; 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

971

[1] There is a Redeemer--
Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done.

[2] Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Hope for sinners slain.
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done.

[3] When I stand in glory,
I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place.
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done.