



Daily Prayer
+ Wednesday, May 13, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 106:6-10,47-48

L: Both we and our fathers have sinned;

C: we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness.

L: Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works;

C: they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.

L: Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power.

C: He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert.

L: So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.

C: Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

L: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

C: And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the 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.

Hymn

#477

[1] Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:

Sing to God a hymn of gladness,

Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled-
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

[2] Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried;
Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.

[3] Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
To the triune Majesty!

Reading

Acts 4:1-12

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number

of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

In our reading today from Acts 4, Peter and John are arrested in the Temple for proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. The chief priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees had become "*greatly annoyed*" that the disciples of Jesus were continuing to preach his name following his death. They rejected Jesus as a prophet from God and denied that he had been raised from the dead.

Many others, however, believed. As Luke reports: *But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.* (Acts 4:4)

The success of the preaching of Jesus by the apostles and their clear ability to perform miracles before the people was causing distress among the leadership in Israel. And so they arrested Peter and John and put them in prison for the night.

The next day, Peter is given an opportunity to preach Christ before the rulers and elders in Israel. The entire high priestly family is there: Annas, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander. This is in fulfillment of Jesus' words: *"They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake."* (Luke 21:12)

Peter and John are brought before the rulers and the question that is put to them concerns the source of their power to heal. The high priests assume that Peter and John are false prophets and that they are healing by the power of the devil. But Peter denies this and proclaims that the crippled man had been healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth: *"By him this man is standing before you well."* (Acts 4:10)

The rulers had killed Christ, but God raised him from the dead: *"This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And*

there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:11-12)

Peter is given a great opportunity here in Acts 4 to preach Christ. Although he suffers arrest and imprisonment, his suffering provides an opportunity to witness. This is often the case in the Christian life. Times of distress come upon us and the silver lining of all such occasions is the opportunity to share what God has done and is doing in the world. He is the God who delivers us from all our troubles.

May our eyes be opened to opportunities to preach Christ in our times of need. 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 Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise you for continuing among us the preaching of your Gospel. Send your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, that our saving knowledge of you might grow; for you live and reign 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.

Hymn

#479

[1] Christ is risen, Christ is living,
Dry your tears, be unafraid!
Death and darkness could not hold Him,
Nor the tomb in which He lay.
Do not look among the dead for

One who lives forevermore;
Tell the world that Christ is risen,
Make it known He goes before.

[2] If the Lord had never risen,
We'd have nothing to believe.
But His promise can be trusted:
"You will live, because I live."
As we share the death of Adam,
So in Christ we live again;
Death has lost its sting and terror,
Christ the Lord has come to reign.

[3] Death has lost its old dominion,
Let the world rejoice and shout!
Christ, the firstborn of the living,
Gives us life and leads us out.
Let us thank our God, who causes
Hope to spring up from the ground;
Christ is risen, Christ is giving
Life eternal, life profound.