



Daily Prayer
+ Thursday, May 14, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 107:1-9

L: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

C: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

L: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in;

C: hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

L: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

C: He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

L: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

C: For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

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

#478, v. 1-2

[1] The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.

From death to life eternal,
From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over
With hymns of victory.

[2] Our hearts be purged of evil
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light
And, list'ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Reading

Acts 4:13-22

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and

heard." And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

In our reading today from Acts 4, the chief priests and the rulers of the temple are clearly exasperated by Peter and John and their stubborn refusal to stop preaching Jesus and his resurrection from the dead.

From the perspective of the chief priests and rulers, the apostles are corrupting the nation by preaching a false gospel concerning a false prophet. Yet, they do acknowledge that Peter and John have healed a man crippled from birth. And the man was, "*more than forty years old*". (Acts 4:22) This is a significant miracle and a clear sign that something is going on which they do not understand. And so they choose to warn Peter and John to stop preaching Christ, but in the end release them.

As part of this event, Peter and John are told to stop speaking in the name of Jesus. And their response is important, especially today when we consider the question of religious liberty.

The chief priests had called Peter and John and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. And they even threatened them.

And what is Peter's response? His response is a bold call for religious liberty and freedom of conscience: *But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* (Acts 4:19-20)

This statement by Peter has been used down through the ages to give Christians courage to confess Christ in a world of opposition and persecution. They are a rallying cry for Christian liberty and freedom of conscience.

On the one hand, we are obligated by the fourth commandment to respect father and mother and to obey the government. Paul is clear about this: *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."* (Romans 13:1)

On the other hand, we are even more so obligated by the first commandment to respect and obey God. As Peter will say in Acts 5: *"We must obey God rather than men."* (Acts 5:29)

Most times, obeying God and obeying the government go hand in hand. The government teaches us to be good; and so does God. However, when a choice needs to be made because God and government are giving opposing

commands, the first commandment trumps the fourth and we are to remember the words of Peter here: *“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”* (Acts 4:19-20) In the end, our first obligation is to God, then good government.

And so we are bold to obey God and to proclaim the name of Christ in the world, no matter the consequence. 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 God, increase in us a saving knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in your grace; 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

#478, v. 3-4

[3] Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
Let earth her song begin.
Let all the world keep triumph
And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen;
Our joy shall have no end!

[4] All praise to God the Father,
All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory
Ascribe to God alone!