



Daily Prayer
+ Tuesday, May 19, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 107:33-43

L: He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,

C: a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.

L: He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

C: And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in; they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield.

L: By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish.

C: When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow,

L: he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes;

C: but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks.

L: The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth.

C: Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of 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

#484, v. 1-3

- [1] Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Alleluia!
He lives again who once was dead! Alleluia!
- [2] Our life was purchased by His loss; Alleluia!
He died our death upon the cross. Alleluia!
- [3] O death, where is your deadly sting? Alleluia!
Assumed by our triumphant King! Alleluia!

Reading

Acts 5:27-42

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was

killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from Acts 5 teaches on the strength of the will of God and the weakness of the will of man. God's will is strong and must be accomplished. Man's will is weak and may or may not be accomplished, depending upon the will of God and the circumstances of life.

Following Pentecost, the apostles had been preaching that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God come down from heaven; and that although he had been killed on a cross, God raised him from the dead. The apostles preached

that God had exalted Jesus to his right hand as Leader and Savior; and that he had done so in order to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. The apostles were witnesses of these things and so was the Holy Spirit, who had been given to them.

The chief priests and the other leaders in the ruling council in Jerusalem were enraged by this preaching of the apostles because, if true, their preaching put the blame for the death of the Lord's Christ on them. And so they objected, "*We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*" (Acts 5:28)

The rulers were so angry and enraged by Peter and the other apostles that they wanted to kill them. At the peak of their anger, however, a prominent teacher and Pharisee on the council named Gamaliel, a man who was "*held in honor by all the people*" (Luke 5:34) stood up to speak in defense of the apostles.

And his logic was simple. If the apostles were not prophets of God then their efforts and their preaching would fail. But, if the apostles were prophets of God then no effort to oppose them would succeed and the council would find itself opposing God. And so, Gamaliel cautioned the council to leave the apostles alone and let God's will be done.

This advice and course of action is based on a simple truth: that in the end God's will is done. Evil and all that is false

might succeed for a while, for a short time, and may appear to have the upper hand; but in the end God's will is accomplished and the truth is made known in the world. If the apostles were preaching falsehood their efforts would soon fail; but if the apostles were preaching the truth then nothing could hold them back.

This reality concerning the strength of God's will should give us encouragement and confidence. In a world of sin and trouble and great difficulty; we have confidence that in the end the Father's will is done, even on earth, as it is in heaven. This was the prayer of God's Son, and our prayer, and it is a prayer that is answered by God in the end.

The small church of Jesus following Pentecost has grown over 2000 years into a world-wide church of millions and millions of believers. Why? Because the church preaches the truth about God and his Son Jesus Christ: that in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has won for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. This preaching has won out over time and cannot be extinguished because it is true and it is God's will that world know it. 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: Merciful God, enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in his steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; 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

#484, v. 4-6

[4] And where your victory, O grave, Alleluia!
When one like Christ has come to save? Alleluia!

[5] Behold, the tyrants, one and all, Alleluia!
Before our mighty Savior fall! Alleluia!

[6] For this be praised the Son who rose, Alleluia!
The Father, and the Holy Ghost! Alleluia!