



---

**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Saturday, May 2, 2020 +**

## Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 103:1-7*

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

**C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his  
benefits,**

L: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your  
diseases, who redeems your life from the pit,

**C: who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who  
satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed  
like the eagle's.**

L: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who  
are oppressed.

**C: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the  
people of Israel.**

**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

#467, v. 1-3

[1] Awake, my heart, with gladness,  
See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness,  
Comes forth the glorious sun.  
My Savior there was laid  
Where our bed must be made  
When to the realms of light  
Our spirit wings its flight.

[2] The foe in triumph shouted  
When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But lo, he now is routed,  
His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free;  
In glorious victory  
He who is strong to save  
Has triumphed o'er the grave.

[3] This is a sight that gladdens--  
What peace it does impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens  
The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake,  
No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son  
In love for me has won.

## **Reading**

## **John 21:20-25**

*Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. Now there are also many*

*other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

Our reading today from John 21 closes out the Gospel of John by revealing the author as John the beloved disciples and by giving testimony from John that what he has written is true.

The account takes place in Galilee following the restoration of Peter as an apostle and disciple of Christ and his commissioning to preach the Gospel. As Jesus said: "*Feed my sheep.*" (John 21:17) And, "*Follow me.*" (John 21:19) This event, the restoration of Peter, had taken place in semi-private, as Jesus and Peter walked alone, away from the other disciples.

At the same time, however, Peter turned and he saw John following closely. Peter is surprised that John is following so close, especially because of the personal nature of Peter's reconciliation with Jesus, and he says to Jesus: "*Lord, what about this man?*"

Peter is in a good mood here. He is not upset that John is following closely, disturbing his private walk with Jesus along the seashore. Instead, Peter is excited about his restored calling and hopeful for the future. And he wants to know what Jesus has planned for John. It's as if he said, *"What about John? What will John do? What commission do you have for him?"*

And so Jesus said to Peter, *"If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"* (John 21:22) Peter is very inquisitive here; but Jesus puts him off and directs him to pay attention to his own calling.

Jesus has a will for John. He will live the longest of all of the disciples, to 100 A.D., and will provide eyewitness testimony to the life and words of Jesus for decades to come. In fact, John will live so long that he will be able to give approval to all of the Gospels, the Book of Acts, and Paul and Peter's letters; in fact, all of the documents which will form the New Testament Scriptures. John will remain and will confirm the truth of the entire New Testament.

But what is that to Peter? John will have his own calling to give testimony to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And his testimony will be true. But Peter needs to mind his own calling. *"Follow me!"* Jesus says. *"Feed my sheep."*

This event reminds us that each of us has a unique calling from God, a different way of service to the Lord in the

world. No two of us are the same. Our lives are all very different.

Yes, we share a common calling to know Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. We all share in one faith, one baptism, one Lord. Yet, our callings are all unique. And we each serve God and neighbor in the world in a different way.

This diversity of gifts in the one kingdom of God is a gift from Jesus; a gift revealed again in our reading today. We should remember this account as it encourages confidence in our own personal calling and respect for the callings of others. 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**

**# 467, v. 4-7**

[4] Now hell, its prince, the devil,  
Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
Now I am safe from evil,  
And sin I laugh to scorn.  
Grim death with all its might  
Cannot my soul affright;  
It is a pow'rless form,  
Howe'er it rave and storm.

[5] The world against me rages,  
Its fury I disdain;  
Though bitter war it wages,  
Its work is all in vain.  
My heart from care is free,  
No trouble troubles me.  
Misfortune now is play,  
And night is bright as day.

[6] Now I will cling forever  
To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never,  
Whate'er he passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain;  
He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's grim thrall;  
I follow Him through all.

[7] He brings me to the portal  
That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal  
Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross has shared  
Find here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died  
Shall here be glorified."