



Daily Prayer
+ Tuesday, May 26, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 111:6-10

L: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

C: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

L: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

C: Holy and awesome is his name!

L: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

C: His praise endures forever!

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

#491, v. 1-2

[1] Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.

[2] Death-destroying, life-restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!

Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water!

What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

In our reading today from Acts 8, the Spirit of God leads Philip to speak the Gospel of Christ to a court official of Ethiopia who was returning to his homeland following a visit to Jerusalem. The young man served Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, and was an important official in the kingdom of Ethiopia.

His high office, however, did not prevent him from searching for the truth about God. In fact, because of his high office, the Ethiopian had been instructed in the art of reading and enjoyed the luxury of owning a copy of the Prophet Isaiah, which he read as he was carried along in his chariot. This young, wealthy, important official from Ethiopia had opportunity to study, but lacked the spiritual insight to understand what he was reading.

And so, the Spirit led Philip to the young man so that he could hear the Gospel of Jesus and be saved. As Luke writes, *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus."* (Luke 8:35)

This presentation of the Gospel was followed with baptism as the rich, young, Ethiopian official came to faith by the power of the Spirit through the Word.

What a joy Philip must have had in presenting the Gospel so soon after the resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was very active in those days, carrying Philip along from place to place to share Jesus.

May that very same Spirit inspire us and lead us to speak of Christ to those who seek him. And may the Spirit open doors to sharing the Gospel for us. 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: Father in heaven, we humbly ask your abiding presence in every situation that you would make known your ways among us; 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

#491, v. 3-4

[3] To our lives of wanton wand'ring
Send Your Spirit, promised guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,
To an endless Eastertide.

[4] Alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, to see the Father's face.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!