



Daily Prayer
+ Thursday, May 28, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 112:1,6-10

L: Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

C: For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.

L: He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

C: His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

L: He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;

C: his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

L: The wicked man sees it and is angry;

C: he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!

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

#493, v. 1-2

[1] A hymn of glory let us sing!

New hymns throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod,

Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[2] The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand.
Alleluia, alleluia!
And with His faithful followers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reading

Acts 9:10-19

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from Acts 9 continues the account of Paul's conversion and the gift of the Holy Spirit which was given to him through baptism and the laying on of hands.

On the road to Damascus, the Lord Jesus had appeared to Paul and revealed himself as the one whom Paul was persecuting. This revelation of Jesus Christ resulted in the loss of Paul's eyesight.

In our account today, Paul's eyesight is restored and he is given the gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism and the laying on of hands by Ananias.

Paul is also given his mission. As the Lord said to Ananias:
“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” (Acts 9:15-16)

Here is yet another summary of the Great Commission; although personalized for the Apostle Paul. The mission of the church is to carry the name of Jesus before the world and to suffer for the sake of the name of Christ. This is true for all of us; and would be especially true for Paul. The rest of the Book of Acts will give record to how Jesus fulfilled this mission and calling in Paul's life.

Our reading is a reminder of the simple mission work of the church: to carry the name of Jesus before those who do not know him and to suffer for the sake of his name. The fulfillment of that calling is unique for each one of us; but the fundamentals are common to us all: to carry the name of Jesus before others and to suffer for his name. May this be fulfilled in our life today. 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: O Lord, our God, we acknowledge your great goodness toward us and praise you for the mercy and grace that our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our hearts have known; 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

#493, v. 3

[3] To them the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia, alleluia!
"This is the Savior," thus they say;
"This is His glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!