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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Friday, May 29, 2020 +**

## Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

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

## Psalmody

*Psalm 113*

L: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

**C: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

**C: The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!**

L: Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

**C: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**

L: He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

**C: Praise 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

**#493, v. 4-5**

[4] "You see Him now, ascending high  
Up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia, alleluia!  
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
Returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[5] Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,  
And be our future great reward. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Then, throned with You forever, we  
Shall praise Your name eternally.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## **Reading**

**Acts 9:19-22**

*For some days Paul was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson**

In our reading today from Acts 9, Paul begins his ministry as the Apostle to the Gentiles by proclaiming the name of Jesus in Damascus, Syria. Paul does not hesitate in getting to work following his conversion to Christ on the road to Damascus, but immediately begins to preach and to proclaim the revelation given to him by the risen Jesus. His baptism leads immediately to proclaiming salvation in Christ.

Paul begins, as will be his custom, not by preaching to the gentiles, but to the Jews in the synagogue. Paul

understands that the Gospel is, *"the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* (Romans 1:16) And so Paul begins to preach in the synagogue in Damascus.

And his message consists in the simple facts of the Gospel: that Jesus is Son of God and Christ. *And immediately Paul proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."....Saul confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.* (Acts 9)

Notice that this teaching of Paul concerning Jesus perfectly matches up with Peter's confession in Matthew 16: *"Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* (Matthew 16:15-16)

Who is Jesus? He is the Christ, the Son of God. These simple creedal statements, it should be noted, are the heart of the Gospel and they go back to the very foundation of the church. Peter confessed this about Jesus while Jesus was still living. And Paul preached this about Jesus within a few years of his death and resurrection. These doctrines are not complex theological conclusions which the church developed over time, but are of the very essence of the Christian faith and were the fundamental message of the early Church.

These statements are at the heart of what is said of Jesus in the Apostles' Creed: *"And in Jesus Christ, his only Son..."* Who is Jesus? He is the Christ, the only Son of God.

These are the fundamentals. To confess that Jesus is the Son of God is to confess his nature as the divine Son of God. This man is God's Son. To confess that Jesus is the Christ is to confess his work as the Savior of mankind. This Son of God came down from heaven for a purpose: for us and for our salvation. Jesus is the divine Son of God come into the world to be the Christ and to bear our sins on the cross.

Paul's conversion was real and profound and complete. Even on day one of his life of faith Paul understood who Jesus was: Son of God and Christ. May his faith and understanding of Jesus be ours today as well. 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 Almighty, we sincerely repent of the sins of this day and those in the past. Pardon our offenses, correct and reform what is lacking in us, and help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior; 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. 6**

[6] O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to You let earth accord: Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!