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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Monday, May 4, 2020 +**

## Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

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

## Psalmody

*Psalm 103:8-14*

L: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**C: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

L: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**C: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

L: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**C: For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.**

**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

#478, v. 1-2

[1] The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The passover of gladness,  
The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over  
With hymns of victory.

[2] Our hearts be purged of evil  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.

## Reading

## Acts 1:1-26

*In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,*

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and ‘Let another take his office.’ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph*

*called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

Our reading today from the first chapter of the Book of Acts begins the history of the early church as told by Luke the Evangelist. Luke has written a two-part account of the life of Jesus and his church. The first book, the Gospel of Luke, gives the biography of Jesus, *"all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen."* (Acts 1:1-2)

Luke was a companion of Paul and a historian. He interviewed the apostles and eyewitnesses and gathered together the accounts of the life of Jesus and his teaching and put these things down in an orderly way in his two-part account: Luke-Acts.

In chapter 1 of Acts, Luke gives the account of Jesus ascension into heaven forty days after his resurrection from the dead, followed by the replacement of Judas by Matthias as an eyewitness and apostle.

The central work of the early church was to give public testimony to who Jesus was, what he did and what he said. Why? So that the world might believe that Jesus is the Son of God and, by believing, might have life in his name.

God's will is that we would know that he loves us and has won for us a salvation through Jesus Christ. And so, he commissions the apostles to be his witnesses.

You and I carry on this evangelistic witness to Christ when we proclaim the testimony of the apostles found in the written Word of God, the New Testament scriptures. Our role and task is to preach what God has accomplished in Christ, as recorded in the Bible.

Why? So that many can come to know Christ as we know him: Savior and Lord. Faith comes from hearing truth about Christ. The truth about Christ is recorded in the New Testament. And so we preach Christ as we have come to know him from the testimony of the apostles.

My this work of evangelization be accomplished through us and our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. 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

# 478, v. 3-4

[3] Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
Let earth her song begin.  
Let all the world keep triumph  
And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen,  
Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen;  
Our joy shall have no end!

[4] All praise to God the Father,  
All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory  
Ascribe to God alone!