



Daily Prayer
+ Friday, May 8, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 104:1,19-24

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great!

C: He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

L: You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep about.

C: The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

L: When the sun rises, they steal away and lie down in their dens.

C: Man goes out to his work and to his labor until the evening.

L: O LORD, how manifold are your works!

C: In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

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

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and

having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

In our reading today from Acts 2, Luke begins his record and account of the early days of the apostles and of the church following the Day of Pentecost. Peter had preached his Pentecost Sermon and many were cut to the heart that day in repentance and true faith and about three thousand souls were added to the kingdom of God through baptism into Christ.

Having heard the Gospel that Jesus had died for the sins of the world and had been raised from the grave in victory over death, how did the early Christians respond? What did they begin to do?

Luke reports: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* (Acts 2:42)

What did the early church do? They began to practice what would grow into the Divine Service that we celebrate every Lord's Day. They gathered together to hear the Word of God, celebrate Holy Communion, and pray.

The order of service that we use on Sundays in church is not an accidental arrangement of activities thrown together

without rhyme or reason. No, we worship according to a pattern and a practice that goes all the way back to the Day of Pentecost.

Each Sunday we gather together in the Lord's name and begin with a Service of the Word. We, "*devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching.*" (Acts 2:42) The heart and center of this Service of the Word is the reading of Scripture in which we hear the Prophets (Old Testament) and the Apostles (Epistle) and the Lord Jesus (Gospel). The sermon is then an explanation and a further proclamation of this Word of God that we have read.

This Service of the Word is then followed by the Service of the Sacrament, what Luke calls "*the fellowship*" and "*the breaking of bread*" in our reading today. We gather together in fellowship and communion with one another and with the Lord to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. As Paul writes, "*The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?*" (1 Corinthians 10:16) The word "*participation*" used by Paul here is the same word "*fellowship*" used by Luke in Acts 2. It is equivalent to the word "*communion*". The Lord's Supper is a Holy Communion of the body and blood of Christ, the "*breaking of bread*" which the church has been celebrating every Lord's Day since that first Pentecost.

All of this worship of Word and Sacrament is surrounded and supported by prayer: the prayer of Psalms, prayer in hymn form, prayer in spoken words.

As Luke writes, "*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*" (Acts 2:42) Amen.

This was the practice of the early church and it remains our practice today. The language and the hymns and the music change over time, but the structure and the content remain the same. A gift of God for us to worship his holy name. 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, you have called your church to witness that in Christ you have reconciled us to yourself. Grant that by your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; 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."