



Daily Prayer
+ Wednesday, June 10, 2020 +

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 118:14-18

L: The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

C: Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:

L: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

C: the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"

L: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

C: The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

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

#506, v. 1-2

[1] Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory while eternal ages run!

[2] Glory be to Him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,
Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!

Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I

began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

In our reading today from Acts 11, Luke begins to recount the great controversy of the early church concerning the mission to the Gentiles. Although Jesus had clearly instructed his disciples that they were to make disciples of all nations, the Jew first, but then the Gentile, there were men within the congregation in Jerusalem who had trouble coming to an understanding and acceptance of the universal nature of the Christian Gospel.

As Luke writes, "*When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, 'You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.'*" (Acts 11:2-3)

The concern here is faithfulness to God's Law and the distinction drawn in the Law of Moses between Israel and the nations. Israel had been called out from among the nations to be God's special and holy people. But here is

Peter, making no distinction between Jew and Gentile and entering the home of a Roman and eating with him.

This provides an opportunity for Peter to give an account of how God had led him to this new mission field among the Gentiles. Peter tells what took place and he draws attention to how this action of his was led by God. He saw a vision from God. He heard God's voice. He was led by God's Spirit to go to Caesarea to preach Christ. And the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his household.

Peter's point? That God had made the decision in this controversy. As he concludes his defense: "*If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?*" (Acts 11:17) Indeed! Who are we to stand in God's way as he works salvation in the world and offers it to all nations.

This convinced the church in Jerusalem, at least most of them, if not the circumcision party. The controversy will go on for many years, but at least for Peter and most of the disciples, the decision had been made by God.

And so Luke writes, "*When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.'*" (Acts 11:18) 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 in heaven, help us to live according to your commandments and praise and glorify you as our faithful God and Lord; 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

#506, v. 3-4

[3] Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory to the King of glory sing!

[4] Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!