



Daily Prayer
+ Friday, June 12, 2020 +

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 118:25-29

L: Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

C: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

L: We bless you from the house of the LORD.

C: The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

L: Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

C: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

L: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

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

#524, v. 1-3

[1] How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

[2] It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
It's manna to the hungry soul

And to the weary, rest.

[3] Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

Reading

Acts 12:1-5

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from Acts 12 gives the account of the martyrdom of James. There are several men in the New Testament named James:

- The Apostle James, brother of John, son of Zebedee. (Matthew 10:2)
- The Apostle James, son of Alphaeus. (Matthew 10:3)
- James the Just, the brother or cousin of Jesus, first pastor of the church in Jerusalem, author of the Book of James.

(Matthew 13:55; Acts 12:17,15:13,21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19, 2:9, 2:12; James 1:1; Jude 1:1)

- James the Less, the cousin of Jesus, the son of Mary the wife of Clopas. (Matthew 27:56)
- James, the father of the Apostle Judas/Thaddaeus. (Luke 6:16)

The James in Acts 12 was the Apostle James, brother of John, son of Zebedee. James and John were from Bethsaida on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee and were fishing partners with Peter and Andrew. Peter, James, and John formed the inner circle of Jesus' most trusted and faithful apostles.

The Herod in our account is Herod Agrippa I (born in 10 B.C.), a grandson of Herod the Great and nephew of Herod Antipas. He had received the reign of Judea and Galilee in 41 A.D. and ruled until his death in 44 A.D.

Herod Agrippa was interested in peace in Judea through the support of the majority of Jews and the suppression of minority viewpoints. He viewed the Christians in Jerusalem, a religious minority, as divisive and disruptive to political harmony and peace among the people.

For these reasons, Herod Agrippa opposed Christianity and persecuted the church, leading to the martyrdom of James in 42 A.D.

One of the mysteries of the history of the early church is the early martyrdom of James and the miraculous rescue of Peter. It is a mystery of God's hidden, divine will that in

Acts 12 James suffers martyrdom while Peter is rescued. No explanation is given for this mystery; only the history is provided.

Yet it ought not surprise us. There are many events in human history and in our own lives which are impossible to explain. Young children and babies who die early in life, good countries which fall into ruin, seemingly random fires and natural disasters. These things take place and we want to ask God why? But often there is no answer provided from God apart from the fallenness of this world, the tragedy of sin and death, and the suffering of God's people in the world.

Christians are not exempt from the troubles of life. In fact, we are promised these troubles. *"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33) This was the promise of Jesus for his disciples; including James and Peter; including you and me. We will have trouble; but in the end we will have victory in Jesus who died and rose again.

In spite of our troubles, then, we turn to God in faith and we wait for the unfolding of his plan of salvation for each one of us. In time, we will all be delivered into his eternal kingdom. 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, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may rule and direct us, and that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; 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

#524, v. 4-6

[4] O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

[5] How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

[6] Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!