



Daily Prayer
+ Monday, June 15, 2020 +

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 119:9-16

L: How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

C: With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

L: I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

C: Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

L: With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

C: In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

L: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

C: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

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

#526, v. 1-2

[1] You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.

[2] You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart.
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

Reading

Acts 12:20-25

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. But the word of God increased and multiplied. And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today gives the account of the death of Herod Agrippa and the end of the Jerusalem persecution and serves as a transition into Luke's account of the great missionary journeys of Paul and his companions.

Herod Agrippa had been set on persecuting and hindering the work of the church in Judea. His goal was to repress the new and growing church and to support the majority religion, Pharisaic Judaism. God had permitted this persecution and even used it to scatter the apostles abroad, preaching the Gospel to new cities and peoples.

But now the time has come for the persecution to end and for the church to have peace and grow. As Luke writes after describing the death of Herod: "*But the word of God increased and multiplied. And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.*" (Acts 12:24-25)

Notice God's concern: that his word would increase and multiply. God's will is that his Word would be preached and made known throughout the world. And so, Paul and Barnabas, who had come to Jerusalem to deliver financial relief for the church in Judea, returned to Antioch. Their missionary journeys await.

And for this return, they brought with them John Mark. John Mark was the cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10) and the author of the Gospel of Mark. He would accompany Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. (Acts 13)

The state is set, then, for new avenues of outreach for the church and for the mission to the Greeks. God will lead Paul in this new direction in the next chapter. 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: Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain eternal 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

#526, v. 3-4

[3] You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.

[4] You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.