



Daily Prayer
+ Wednesday, June 17, 2020 +

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 119:25-32

L: My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!

C: When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes!

L: Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

C: My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!

L: Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

C: I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me.

L: I cling to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame!

C: I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

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

#528, v. 1-3

[1] Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

[2] My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

[3] Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

Reading

Acts 13:4-12

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then

the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from Acts 13 gives a report of the first encounter that Paul and Barnabas and John Mark have on their very first missionary journey.

The work began at the church in Antioch, where Paul had served as a pastor and teacher for over a year, when the Holy Spirit set Barnabas and Paul apart for a mission to the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas were ordained for this ministry and sent off. Their first stop was the island of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Their stop at Cyprus makes sense when we remember that Barnabas was from Cyprus. As Luke introduced Barnabas in Acts 4: *"Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."* (Acts 4:36-37)

Seleucia was the port city of Antioch of Syria, 16 miles west of Antioch, and it's from Seleucia that the missionary team set sail. They landed in Salamis, the most important city on Cyprus. Most of the Cyprians were Greek, but there were Jews in Cyprus, and so Paul and Barnabas

began their work preaching Christ in the Jewish synagogues of the island.

As missionaries, Paul and Barnabas were not interested in settling down in Salamis, but traveling through the island to the capital, Paphos, where they encounter a false prophet, Bar-Jesus.

While preaching at the capital city, Paphos, Paul and Barnabas were given an opportunity to preach Christ to the Roman ruler on the island, the proconsul Sergius Paulus, who asked them to present their message. Clearly Paul and Barnabas were making an impact on the island and it drew the attention of the Roman ruler.

Among the officials at the Roman court in Paphos was found a Jewish sorcerer, Bar-Jesus. Because fortune-telling and magic were not permitted by Mosaic Law, this Bar-Jesus is noted by Luke as a false prophet and is strongly opposed by Paul: *"You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time."* (Acts 13:10)

This encounter with the proconsul bears fruit and Luke reports that Sergius Paulus came to faith: *"Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord."* (Acts 13:12)

This conversion of an important Roman official was surely received by Paul and Barnabas as a good sign concerning their mission to the Gentiles and they would have greatly rejoiced at the effect that the Gospel had had on Sergius Paulus and his court.

This account encourages us to remember that all of our work in the Lord is not in vain, but effective in opposing evil and bringing salvation to those who hear with wisdom. 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: Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise you for all your goodness in this life until, with all your saints, we praise you eternally in your heavenly kingdom; 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

#528, v. 4-7

[4] He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

[5] Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

[6] See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.

[7] To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.