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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Thursday, June 18, 2020 +**

## Invocation

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

**C: Amen.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 119:33-40*

L: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

**C: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

L: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

**C: Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!**

L: Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

**C: Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.**

L: Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good.

**C: Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!**

**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

#531, v. 1-2

[1] Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!  
Hail, Thou Galilean King!  
Thou didst suffered to release us;  
Thou didst free salvation bring.

Hail, Thou universal Savior,  
Bearer of our sin and shame!  
By Thy merit we find favor;  
Life is given through Thy name.

[2] Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,  
All our sins on Thee were laid;  
By almighty love anointed,  
Thou hast full atonement made.  
All Thy people are forgiven  
Through the virtue of Thy blood;  
Open is the gate of heaven,  
Reconciled are we with God.

## Reading

**Acts 13:13-23**

*Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel*

*the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson**

Our reading today from Acts 13 gives the account of Paul and Barnabas, on their first missionary journey, as they arrive in southern Asia Minor, at the city of Antioch in Pisidia. This Antioch is a different city than Antioch in Syria, their home congregation, which had sent them off with prayer and by the direction of the Holy Spirit for a mission among the Greeks.

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark had sailed from the capital city of Cyprus, Paphos, and had landed in Perga in Pamphylia, in southern Asia Minor. It's at this point that an unknown conflict occurs, resulting in John Mark abandoning the mission to return to Jerusalem. Luke will return to Paul's conflict with John Mark later in Acts.

For now, Paul and Barnabas travel on alone until they arrive in Antioch in Pisidia. Here Paul will present the Gospel to the synagogue in the town and Luke will record for us a large section of his sermon. This provides us with an insight into Paul's Gospel and the type of preaching he

engaged in. What a blessing! Our reading today contains only the beginning of Paul's sermon at the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia.

Paul begins his sermon with an account of the history of Israel: how God had chosen Israel through the call of Abraham and delivered them from slavery in Egypt; how God had driven seven nations out of the land of Canaan to provide for them a home; how God led the people through judges and prophets and kings; how God had raised up David and that, *"of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised."* (Acts 13:23)

Here Paul introduces Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures and the history of salvation contained in God's Word. Paul preaches Jesus as the offspring of David and the Savior of Israel, the fulfillment of God's promise.

Paul is preaching to Jews in the synagogue and his first goal is to present Jesus as the fulfillment of all that God has done throughout history, as a continuation of the history of salvation. Christianity is not a solid break from the Old Testament faith, but a continuation and fulfillment of God's promise.

This preaching of Paul is in line with what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* (Matthew 5:17)

Our reading, then, reminds us that in Jesus God has fulfilled his promise, remembered us in our troubles, and worked out our salvation in time. It is an encouragement to trust in God and to wait on his salvation and to find in Jesus the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures. 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 Almighty, even as you bless your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to your honor and glory; 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**

**#531, v. 3-4**

[3] Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,  
There forever to abide;  
All the heav'nly host adore Thee,  
Seated at Thy Father's side.  
There for sinners Thou art pleading;  
There Thou dost our place prepare,  
Ever for us interceding  
Till in glory we appear.

[4] Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing  
Thou art worthy to receive;  
Highest praises, without ceasing,  
Right it is for us to give.  
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,  
All your noblest anthems raise;  
Help to sing our Savior's merits,  
Help to chant Immanuel's praise!