



Daily Prayer
+ Friday, June 5, 2020 +

Invocation

L: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,

C: and kindle in them the fire of your love! Alleluia.

Psalmody

Psalm 116:15-19

L: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

C: O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.

L: You have loosed my bonds.

C: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

L: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

C: in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

L: Praise the LORD!

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

#501, v. 1-2

[1] Come down, O Love divine;
Seek Thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with
Thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy
holy flame bestowing.

[2] O let it freely burn,
Till worldly passions turn
To dust and ashes
in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the
while my path illuming.

Reading

Acts 10:9-16

The next day, as [the servants of Cornelius] were on their journey and approaching the city of Joppa, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today from Acts 10 continues the long account of Peter and Cornelius. The purpose of this interaction

between Peter and Cornelius, beyond bringing the Gospel to him and his particular household, was to fully convince Peter, and perhaps especially the church, that it was the Lord's will to reach out to all nations with the Gospel. As Paul would write, *"The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* (Romans 1:16)

This truth of the universality of the Gospel mission should have been obvious to Peter and the early church already, but the human heart can be slow to fully understand.

The Great Commission is very clear: *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..'"* (Matthew 28:18-19) And, *"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."* (Mark 16:15)

And so, as the delegation from Cornelius travels from Caesarea to Joppa to call on Peter, Jesus comes to Peter before their arrival and gives him a revelation. The purpose of this revelation is to prepare Peter to receive the Gentile delegation.

Peter had gone up on the housetop to pray and he fell into a trance. While in this trance, Peter saw the heavens open and a great sheet with unclean animals come down from the presence of God. Peter was then told to rise, kill, and eat.

At first, Peter refuses. He is a faithful Israelite and has kept the Laws of Moses concerning the prohibition against the eating of unclean animals. But the Lord insists, saying, "*What God has made clean, do not call common.*" (Acts 10:15)

This simple statement will be the heart of Jesus' message to Peter and the early church. He is not really talking about animals here; but of men. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ all men have been made clean. Jews and Greeks alike. All people have been cleansed of sin by Christ and all people are called to return to God in faith and trust. The universal atonement of Jesus has cleansed all people.

And so Paul can say, "*God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Timothy 2:4) And John can say of Jesus, "*He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*" (1 John 2:2)

Jesus died for all. And because of this, all are clean in Jesus and all are called to know that they are clean; repent of sin and turn to Christ.

This does not mean that all people will be saved. Many will refuse the cleansing of Jesus and the forgiveness that he offers. But what it does mean is that God *desires* all people to be saved and that Christ did cleanse all of sin. The door is narrow that leads to salvation and few enter by it; but the door is open to all. Or as Jesus said, "*Many are called, but few are chosen.*" (Matthew 22:14)

May this truth of the universal salvation of Jesus Christ encourage you this day. If Jesus died for all; he surely died for you. If Jesus has called all people clean; he surely has called you clean as well. 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: Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism you called us to be your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of your Holy Spirit in love, joy,

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; 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

#501, v. 3-4

[3] Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be
And lowliness become
mine inner clothing--
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

[4] And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the
pow'r of human telling;
No soul can guess His grace
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy
Spirit makes His dwelling.