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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Monday, March 23, 2020 +**

## Invocation

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

**C: Amen.**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

**C: and my mouth will declare your praise.**

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C: make haste to help me, O 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.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 3*

L: O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul,

**C: "There is no salvation for him in God."**

L: But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

**C: I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.**

L: I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

**C: I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.**

L: Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God!

**C: Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on us!**

**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

# 433

- [1] Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains  
Poured from me the lifeblood; from His sacred veins!
- [2] Grace and life eternal, in that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion, infinitely kind!
- [3] Blest through endless ages; be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment, did the world redeem!
- [4] Abel's blood for vengeance, pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus, for our pardon cries.
- [5] Oft as earth exulting, wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing; make their glad reply.
- [6] Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder; praise the precious blood!

## Reading

**Mark 12:1-12**

*And he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the winepress and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he*

*sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this Scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

Our reading today teaches on the central mystery of the Christian faith: the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is teaching in the temple in Jerusalem on Tuesday of Holy Week. He is speaking to the crowds in parables and he is predicting his death at the hands of the chief priests.

Jesus anticipates that like the prophets of the Old Testament, he will be rejected.

What this means is that Jesus anticipates the cross. He understands why he has come to Jerusalem and what will take place on Friday of Holy Week. Jesus knows what is coming: *"Finally he sent his beloved son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard."*

From the beginning of creation, God the Father has been reaching out to humanity and we have consistently turned him away. Our fall into sin has resulted in a dreadful rejection of God by people. He reaches out to us; and we stubbornly push him away.

Adam and Eve turned away from the Lord in the Garden. The people of Israel rejected God's prophets. The chief priests and the scribes and the teachers of the Law will condemn God's Son to the cross.

Yet, God continues to reach out to us. We turn from him; yet he repeatedly turns back to us. In love and in mercy and in grace. God is determined to save us and to rule over us as Father and God. He is determined to have a people.

And so Jesus quotes from Psalm 118: *Have you not read this Scripture: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”*

Here Jesus interprets the Psalm as a messianic prophecy that is fulfilled in him. Jesus is the stone that the chief priests rejected. Yet in rejecting him, Jesus becomes the cornerstone.

God has done a marvelous thing at the cross. At the very moment where we reject God so completely; he turns to us in love.

It is at the cross that we are reconciled with God. It is at the cross where our sins are forgiven. It is at the cross where God embraces us and restores us to himself.

*"This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118) 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, you exalted your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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.**

[1] We sing the praise of Him who died,  
Of Him who died upon the cross.  
The sinner's hope let all deride;  
For this we count the world but loss.

[2] Inscribed upon the cross we see  
In shining letters, "God is Love."  
He bears our sins upon the tree;  
He brings us mercy from above.

[3] The cross! It takes our guilt away;  
It holds the fainting spirit up;  
It cheers with hope the gloomy day  
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

[4] It makes the coward spirit brave  
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
It takes the terror from the grave  
And gilds the bed of death with light;

[5] The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
The measure and the pledge of love,  
The sinner's refuge here below,  
The angels' theme in heav'n above.

[6] To Christ, who won for sinners grace  
By bitter grief and anguish sore,  
Be praise from all the ransomed race  
Forever and forevermore.