



Daily Prayer
+ Tuesday, March 24, 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 37:3-7

L: Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

C: Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

L: Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

C: He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

L: Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

C: fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

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.

[1] The lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

*[Refrain] Worthy is the Lamb;
whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

[2] The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *[refrain]*

[3] The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. *[refrain]*

[4] He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. *[refrain]*

[5] He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *[refrain]*

Reading

Mark 12:13-27

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him. And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife." Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are

given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today teaches on the resurrection. We are creatures of God, created by him in body and in soul. Our body is mortal on account of the fall into sin, but our soul is immortal and will live on after death. And more than that, even our body will live on after it is raised from the dead on the Last Day. We are not extinguished at death. We do not disappear, but we will live on forever; either with God in heaven or apart from him in hell.

As Jesus said of God the Father: "*He is not God of the dead, but of the living.*" (Mark 12:27)

Here Jesus directed the crowds in the Temple and the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection of the body, back to Moses and the burning bush from Exodus 3 where God called out to Moses, saying, "**I am the God of**

your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” (Exodus 3:6)

God spoke to Moses from the burning bush in 1446 BC.

Abraham, however, who was called by God to leave his homeland in 2091 BC, lived more than 600 years before Moses. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob were long dead, for hundreds of years, before Moses was even born.

Yet when speaking to Moses, God did not refer to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob as those were dead, but as those who were living. In the time of Moses, Abraham was still alive. But in what sense was God speaking? Abraham had been dead for over 500 years. How could he be alive?

The answer is our Christian hope, grounded in the power of God and in his promise. When we die our souls go to heaven to be with the Lord. We live on after death. And more than that, on the Last Day, Christ will return from heaven and will raise our bodies from the grave. Our souls will be reunited with our bodies and we will live forever in God's kingdom.

This is the mystery of the resurrection. And it is our hope. It is grounded in the fact of Jesus' own resurrection and the power of God and his promise that we too will rise. As he said, "*Because I live, you also will live.*" (John 14:19)

Soon we will again remember the events of Holy Week, primarily the death and resurrection of Christ. This resurrection of Jesus is not a one-off event; which has no impact on our life. Instead, the resurrection of Jesus is the beginning and the first of all future resurrections, even our own. Because he rose from the dead; we too will rise. We will all die; yet we will all live on.

This is our joy and hope, even in the face of illness and death. We have knowledge of what will take place after death. And this knowledge is encouraging and gives us strength to face the dangers of life with confidence and eternal security.

So as we continue our days through Lent, let us keep our eyes fixed on the end date: Easter; and on the joy of the resurrection. 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 heavenly Father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, your servant Moses proclaimed the resurrection of the children of Israel to give them hope in the midst of their darkness. As we journey to the darkness of the cross, give us hope to look beyond it to the light of the resurrection; 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] Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- [2] Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- [3] Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- [4] Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.