



Daily Prayer
+ Thursday, March 26, 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 18

L: I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

C: my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

L: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

C: The torrents of destruction assailed me; the snares of death confronted me.

L: In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.

C: From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

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] *When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

[2] *Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

[3] *See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

[4] *Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!*

Reading**Mark 13:1-23**

And as Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what

will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not happen in winter. For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God

created until now, and never will be. And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand."

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today teaches on the signs of the coming of our Lord at the end of the world. The world will not endure forever; but will come to an end on the day of judgment. The creation is winding down. The world has been wounded by sin and will not last forever. The end is near, and has been near for 2000 years, although we do not know when the end will come.

The end of the world might be a frightening prospect to consider, but it need not be. Instead, God's Word encourages us to anticipate the end of the world and look forward to it with joy. Why? Because this world of sin and death will pass away and a new creation will be established by God in which there is no sin or death, no mourning or pain. We anticipate a new and better world. And so we look forward to God's new creation, a home of joy and peace.

For now, however, we live in this world, waiting for the Lord to return and considering the signs of his coming. Among those signs are wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes and famines and pestilences, persecution of the church, and the evangelization of the world.

Of note these days is the sign of pestilence. As Jesus said concerning the signs of our age, "*There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences.*" (Luke 21:11)

The word "*pestilence*" here means plague, an epidemic or highly contagious disease. Jesus predicts and even promises that in our age, the time in which we live, between his ascension and his return in glory, that our age will be characterized by wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, persecutions, and *pestilence*.

It should come as no surprise, then, when we suffer these things. Jesus has warned us ahead of time.

Why would this be? The answer is that these things are signs. They are signs that the world has been broken by sin. They are signs that sin has damaged the world. They are signs that mankind is in need of repentance.

Just as a crack in a window is a sign that the window needs to be repaired--and quickly--the signs of the end are warnings to the world that the world is not right with God and must be repaired. They are warning signs that we need to repent.

And so we should not be alarmed or excessively panicked by wars or pestilences when they come. We should expect them. We should also respond to them as God would have us respond: with repentance and with faith.

Through the signs of the end times, God is leading us to recognize our sin, repent of sin, and turn to him for grace and forgiveness. May we use these days as opportunities to grow in repentance and faith. 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: O Lord, by your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

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[1] Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;
From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day
Unawares o'ertaken;
For the foe, Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping
While the saints are sleeping.

[2] Watch against the devil's snares
Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares
To deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping
And no watch are keeping.

[3] Watch! Let not the wicked world
With its lies defeat you
Lest with bold deceptions hurled
It betray and cheat you.
Watch and see Lest there be
Faithless friends to charm you,
Who but seek to harm you.

[4] Watch against yourself, my soul,
Lest with grace you trifle;
Let not self your thoughts control
Nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin Lurk within,
All your hopes to shatter;
Heed not when they flatter.

[5] But while watching, also pray
To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day,
Strength and faith increasing,
So that still Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him
And forever love Him.