



Formation Devotional

April 30, 2020 Evening

Forming Worship, Life, and Ministry Together at Christ Covenant Church

Take a moment to slow down and turn your thoughts to God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth. (Psalm 31:5)

Opening Prayer

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. (BCP 836)

Prayer of Examine

Turn your attention to Christ who is present with you now. With him, review the ordinary events and emotions of your day with gratitude.

1. Where did you move with or feel close to Jesus today?
2. Where did you resist or feel far from Jesus today?
3. Where is Jesus leading you tomorrow? Ask for joy as you follow him.

Praying the Psalms

Prayerfully read the psalm back to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Psalm 18

The LORD Is My Rock and My Fortress

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

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

³I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;

⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.

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

⁷Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.

⁸Smoke went up from his nostrils,
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

⁹He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.

¹⁰He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

¹¹He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,
thick clouds dark with water.

¹²Out of the brightness before him

hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

¹³The LORD also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice,
hailstones and coals of fire.

¹⁴And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.

¹⁵Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare
at your rebuke, O LORD,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

¹⁶He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.

¹⁷He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁸They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
but the LORD was my support.

¹⁹He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

²⁰The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.

²¹For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
and have not wickedly departed from my God.

²²For all his rules were before me,
and his statutes I did not put away from me.

²³I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from my guilt.

²⁴So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

²⁵With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;

²⁶with the purified you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

²⁷For you save a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.

²⁸For it is you who light my lamp;
the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

²⁹For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

³⁰This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

³¹For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?—

³²the God who equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.

³³He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.

³⁴He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁵You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.

³⁶You gave a wide place for my steps under me,
and my feet did not slip.

³⁷I pursued my enemies and overtook them,
and did not turn back till they were consumed.

³⁸I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise;
they fell under my feet.

³⁹For you equipped me with strength for the battle;
you made those who rise against me sink under me.

⁴⁰You made my enemies turn their backs to me,
and those who hated me I destroyed.

⁴¹They cried for help, but there was none to save;
they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

⁴²I beat them fine as dust before the wind;
I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

⁴³You delivered me from strife with the people;
you made me the head of the nations;
people whom I had not known served me.

⁴⁴As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me;
foreigners came cringing to me.

⁴⁵Foreigners lost heart
and came trembling out of their fortresses.

⁴⁶The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

and exalted be the God of my salvation—
⁴⁷the God who gave me vengeance
and subdued peoples under me,
⁴⁸who rescued me from my enemies;
yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me;
you delivered me from the man of violence.
⁴⁹For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,
and sing to your name.
⁵⁰Great salvation he brings to his king,
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his offspring forever.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus tells the story of the enslavement of God's people by the Egyptians. God raises up a deliverer named Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but the Egyptians resist, and God answers with the ten plagues. Exodus also contains the Ten Commandments and instructions for a tent where God would meet His people. This was called the tent of Moses, or the tabernacle.

As you read and reflect on this passage, prayerfully consider how God might be revealing himself to you this evening.

Exodus 37

Making the Ark

Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ²And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it. ³And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. ⁴And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold ⁵and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark. ⁶And he made a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ⁷And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, ⁸one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends. ⁹The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the

mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.

Making the Table

¹⁰He also made the table of acacia wood. Two cubits was its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold around it. ¹²And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and made a molding of gold around the rim. ¹³He cast for it four rings of gold and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ¹⁴Close to the frame were the rings, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ¹⁵He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold. ¹⁶And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink offerings.

Making the Lampstand

¹⁷He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it. ¹⁸And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; ¹⁹three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. ²⁰And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, ²¹and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it. ²²Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. ²³And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold. ²⁴He made it and all its utensils out of a talent of pure gold.

Making the Altar of Incense

²⁵He made the altar of incense of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit, and its breadth was a cubit. It was square, and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it. ²⁶He overlaid it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns. And he made a molding of gold around it, ²⁷and made two rings of gold on it under its molding, on two opposite sides of it, as holders for the poles with which to carry it. ²⁸And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

²⁹He made the holy anointing oil also, and the pure fragrant incense, blended as by the perfumer.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Relationships

- Thank him for the rich and meaningful relationships Christians can have with one another because God first broke down the dividing wall of hostility and made us one.
- Thank him for all who faithfully walk with God, whether married or single, for a season or for a lifetime.

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- Thank him for the opportunities at Christ Covenant that allow us to forge and cultivate friendships across the barriers that divide our society.

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illuminate this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 133)

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Wonder what your next step in spiritual formation is? Consider getting involved in a Growth Group.

For a handy guide to the devotional elements and an archive of past issues, visit ccotc.org/devotional.