



# Formation Devotional

February 11, 2020 Morning

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

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*As you read and pray this morning, remember you are in God's presence. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide you and direct your thoughts. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. (Isaiah 58:8-9)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, who has revealed to his Church his eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give us grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith, and constant in our worship of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; for you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen. (BCP 199)

## Confession of Sin

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. Forgive our indifference to your will. You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been idle. You have called us to live faithfully, but we have been afraid. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Keep before us faithful people to follow so that living with courage and love, we may work for and inherit the kingdom promised in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and respond in gratitude according to the assurance of grace.*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2)

## Praying the Psalms

*Read the psalm prayerfully back to God by faith in Christ.*

## Psalm 59

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## Deliver Me from My Enemies

*To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him.*

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;

protect me from those who rise up against me;

<sup>2</sup>deliver me from those who work evil,

and save me from bloodthirsty men.

<sup>3</sup>For behold, they lie in wait for my life;

fierce men stir up strife against me.

For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD,

<sup>4</sup> for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.

Awake, come to meet me, and see!

<sup>5</sup> You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel.

Rouse yourself to punish all the nations;

spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah

<sup>6</sup>Each evening they come back,

howling like dogs

and prowling about the city.

<sup>7</sup>There they are, bellowing with their mouths

with swords in their lips—

for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?”

<sup>8</sup>But you, O LORD, laugh at them;

you hold all the nations in derision.

<sup>9</sup>O my Strength, I will watch for you,

for you, O God, are my fortress.

<sup>10</sup>My God in his steadfast love will meet me;

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God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

<sup>11</sup>Kill them not, lest my people forget;

make them totter by your power and bring them down,

O Lord, our shield!

<sup>12</sup>For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips,

let them be trapped in their pride.

For the cursing and lies that they utter,

<sup>13</sup> consume them in wrath;

consume them till they are no more,

that they may know that God rules over Jacob

to the ends of the earth. Selah

<sup>14</sup>Each evening they come back,

howling like dogs

and prowling about the city.

<sup>15</sup>They wander about for food

and growl if they do not get their fill.

<sup>16</sup>But I will sing of your strength;

I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

For you have been to me a fortress

and a refuge in the day of my distress.

<sup>17</sup>O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,

for you, O God, are my fortress,

the God who shows me steadfast love.

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## New Testament Reading

*Mark wrote more for the Romans, who couldn't care less about Hebrew genealogy. Mark's gospel is filled with action. By the fourteenth verse of chapter 1, Mark already records Jesus preaching about the kingdom of God. Mark loses little time, and his gospel is regarded as the fast-paced account. This brief account of Jesus' earthly ministry highlights Jesus' authority and servanthood.*

*Meditate on the passage, noting a few words or a phrase that stood out or a promise to meditate on today. Take them to God in prayer.*

### Mark 2

#### Jesus Heals a Paralytic

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>12</sup>And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

#### Jesus Calls Levi

<sup>13</sup>He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup>And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

<sup>15</sup>And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup>And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>17</sup>And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

#### A Question About Fasting

<sup>18</sup>Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" <sup>19</sup>And Jesus said

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to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup>The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. <sup>21</sup>No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. <sup>22</sup>And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins — and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

### **Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath**

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>26</sup>how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” <sup>27</sup>And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

### **Prayers of Intercession**

#### **Gospel Identity**

- Pray that as Christians go out into the city this morning, they would enter into their neighborhood, work and relationships as those called to be ambassadors of Christ.
- Pray that Christians across the city would be so renewed in their faith they would share their faith freely with others, and that those who don't believe would be made open to the gospel.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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*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](http://ccotc.org/devotional).*