



# Formation Devotional

February 14, 2020 Morning

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

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*Remind yourself that this morning marks another day to enjoy and glorify God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. (Psalm 90:14)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, who has created us in your own image: Grant us grace to fearlessly contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (BCP 209)

## 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 65

### O God of Our Salvation

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*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song.*

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,

and to you shall vows be performed.

<sup>2</sup>O you who hear prayer,

to you shall all flesh come.

<sup>3</sup>When iniquities prevail against me,

you atone for our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,

to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,

the holiness of your temple!

<sup>5</sup>By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,

O God of our salvation,

the hope of all the ends of the earth

and of the farthest seas;

<sup>6</sup>the one who by his strength established the mountains,

being girded with might;

<sup>7</sup>who stills the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves,

the tumult of the peoples,

<sup>8</sup>so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.

You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it;

you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;

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you provide their grain,

for so you have prepared it.

<sup>10</sup>You water its furrows abundantly,

settling its ridges,

softening it with showers,

and blessing its growth.

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty;

your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

<sup>12</sup>The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

the hills gird themselves with joy,

<sup>13</sup>the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

the valleys deck themselves with grain,

they shout and sing together for joy.

## **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 5**

### **Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon**

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup>And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. <sup>3</sup>He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup>for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup>Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>And when he saw Jesus from

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afar, he ran and fell down before him. <sup>7</sup>And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>8</sup>For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup>And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." <sup>10</sup>And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup>Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>12</sup>and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." <sup>13</sup>So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

<sup>14</sup>The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup>And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup>And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. <sup>17</sup>And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. <sup>18</sup>As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup>And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." <sup>20</sup>And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

### **Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter**

<sup>21</sup>And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." <sup>24</sup>And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. <sup>25</sup>And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup>and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup>For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." <sup>29</sup>And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup>And he looked around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

<sup>35</sup>While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" <sup>36</sup>But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." <sup>37</sup>And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." <sup>40</sup>And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who

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were with him and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup> And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Neighborhood**

- Pray for Hope for the City. That God would work mightily through this ministry team as it mobilizes the church to do ministry together in our city.
- Pray for adults and youth in our city who are living with mental and physical disabilities — that they would know their worth and importance in our society because of genuine friendships and relationships within their communities.
- Pray for Christians to be united across churches and denominations to work together for the good of their neighborhoods.

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).*