



# Formation Devotional

February 17, 2020 Evening

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

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*As you come before him this evening, rest in the assurance of his great love. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. (Psalm 62:5-6)

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we remember those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 824)

## 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 68

#### God Shall Scatter His Enemies

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

God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;

and those who hate him shall flee before him!

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<sup>2</sup>As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;

as wax melts before fire,

so the wicked shall perish before God!

<sup>3</sup>But the righteous shall be glad;

they shall exult before God;

they shall be jubilant with joy!

<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;

his name is the LORD;

exult before him!

<sup>5</sup>Father of the fatherless and protector of widows

is God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup>God settles the solitary in a home;

he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,

but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went out before your people,

when you marched through the wilderness, Selah

<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,

before God, the One of Sinai,

before God, the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup>Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad;

you restored your inheritance as it languished;

<sup>10</sup>your flock found a dwelling in it;

in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord gives the word;

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the women who announce the news are a great host:

<sup>12</sup> “The kings of the armies—they flee, they flee!”

The women at home divide the spoil—

<sup>13</sup> though you men lie among the sheepfolds—

the wings of a dove covered with silver,

its pinions with shimmering gold.

<sup>14</sup>When the Almighty scatters kings there,

let snow fall on Zalmon.

<sup>15</sup>O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan;

O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan!

<sup>16</sup>Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain,

at the mount that God desired for his abode,

yes, where the LORD will dwell forever?

<sup>17</sup>The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,

thousands upon thousands;

the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary.

<sup>18</sup>You ascended on high,

leading a host of captives in your train

and receiving gifts among men,

even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.

<sup>19</sup>Blessed be the Lord,

who daily bears us up;

God is our salvation. Selah

<sup>20</sup>Our God is a God of salvation,

and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

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<sup>21</sup>But God will strike the heads of his enemies,  
the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways.

<sup>22</sup>The Lord said,  
“I will bring them back from Bashan,  
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,  
<sup>23</sup>that you may strike your feet in their blood,  
that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe.”

<sup>24</sup>Your procession is seen, O God,  
the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary —

<sup>25</sup>the singers in front, the musicians last,  
between them virgins playing tambourines:

<sup>26</sup>“Bless God in the great congregation,  
the LORD, O you who are of Israel's fountain!”

<sup>27</sup>There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead,  
the princes of Judah in their throng,  
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.

<sup>28</sup>Summon your power, O God,  
the power, O God, by which you have worked for us.

<sup>29</sup>Because of your temple at Jerusalem  
kings shall bear gifts to you.

<sup>30</sup>Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds,  
the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples.  
Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute;  
scatter the peoples who delight in war.

<sup>31</sup>Nobles shall come from Egypt;

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Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.

<sup>32</sup>O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;

sing praises to the Lord, Selah

<sup>33</sup>to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;

behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God,

whose majesty is over Israel,

and whose power is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup>Awesome is God from his sanctuary;

the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.

Blessed be God!

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis gives the account of creation, and the reason why it is so amazing and so corrupt at the same time. The original intent of God for mankind is revealed: God creates the earth for mankind, and mankind for God. Though things go wrong in the beginning, God promises the nomad Abraham that there would be a people who would know Him and walk in His ways in the midst of a broken and rebellious world. The rest of Genesis unfolds in the way God forms this people in the ancient world.*

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

## Genesis 34

### The Defiling of Dinah

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. <sup>2</sup>And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. <sup>3</sup>And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. <sup>4</sup>So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl for my wife."

<sup>5</sup>Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. <sup>6</sup>And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. <sup>7</sup>The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men

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were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

<sup>8</sup>But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife. <sup>9</sup>Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it." <sup>11</sup>Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. <sup>12</sup>Ask me for as great a bride-price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife."

<sup>13</sup>The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah. <sup>14</sup>They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. <sup>15</sup>Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. <sup>16</sup>Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. <sup>17</sup>But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone."

<sup>18</sup>Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's son Shechem. <sup>19</sup>And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father's house. <sup>20</sup>So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, <sup>21</sup>"These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters. <sup>22</sup>Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people—when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. <sup>23</sup>Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us." <sup>24</sup>And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

<sup>25</sup>On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. <sup>26</sup>They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. <sup>27</sup>The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. <sup>28</sup>They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. <sup>29</sup>All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.

<sup>30</sup>Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." <sup>31</sup>But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Work

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- Thank God that we can come before him empty-handed and confess the futility of our efforts. Thank him that he is the one who gives us work and blesses the fruit of our labor.
  - Look back over the past week and praise God for the ways you may have glimpsed tangible expressions of his glory in your daily work.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen. (BCP 70)

## **Benediction**

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

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

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