



Formation Devotional

February 24, 2020 Evening

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

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

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day. (Psalm 91:4-5)

Opening Prayer

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 825)

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 78

Tell the Coming Generation

A Maskil of Asaph.

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

²I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
³things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
⁴We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
⁵He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
⁶that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
⁷ so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
⁸and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.
⁹The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,
turned back on the day of battle.
¹⁰They did not keep God's covenant,

but refused to walk according to his law.

¹¹They forgot his works

and the wonders that he had shown them.

¹²In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders

in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

¹³He divided the sea and let them pass through it,

and made the waters stand like a heap.

¹⁴In the daytime he led them with a cloud,

and all the night with a fiery light.

¹⁵He split rocks in the wilderness

and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

¹⁶He made streams come out of the rock

and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

¹⁷Yet they sinned still more against him,

rebellling against the Most High in the desert.

¹⁸They tested God in their heart

by demanding the food they craved.

¹⁹They spoke against God, saying,

“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?

²⁰He struck the rock so that water gushed out

and streams overflowed.

Can he also give bread

or provide meat for his people?”

²¹Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath;

a fire was kindled against Jacob;

his anger rose against Israel,
²²because they did not believe in God
and did not trust his saving power.
²³Yet he commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,
²⁴and he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.
²⁵Man ate of the bread of the angels;
he sent them food in abundance.
²⁶He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
and by his power he led out the south wind;
²⁷he rained meat on them like dust,
winged birds like the sand of the seas;
²⁸he let them fall in the midst of their camp,
all around their dwellings.
²⁹And they ate and were well filled,
for he gave them what they craved.
³⁰But before they had satisfied their craving,
while the food was still in their mouths,
³¹the anger of God rose against them,
and he killed the strongest of them
and laid low the young men of Israel.
³²In spite of all this, they still sinned;
despite his wonders, they did not believe.
³³So he made their days vanish like a breath,

and their years in terror.

³⁴When he killed them, they sought him;

they repented and sought God earnestly.

³⁵They remembered that God was their rock,

the Most High God their redeemer.

³⁶But they flattered him with their mouths;

they lied to him with their tongues.

³⁷Their heart was not steadfast toward him;

they were not faithful to his covenant.

³⁸Yet he, being compassionate,

atoned for their iniquity

and did not destroy them;

he restrained his anger often

and did not stir up all his wrath.

³⁹He remembered that they were but flesh,

a wind that passes and comes not again.

⁴⁰How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness

and grieved him in the desert!

⁴¹They tested God again and again

and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

⁴²They did not remember his power

or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,

⁴³when he performed his signs in Egypt

and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.

⁴⁴He turned their rivers to blood,

so that they could not drink of their streams.

⁴⁵He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them,
and frogs, which destroyed them.

⁴⁶He gave their crops to the destroying locust
and the fruit of their labor to the locust.

⁴⁷He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamores with frost.

⁴⁸He gave over their cattle to the hail
and their flocks to thunderbolts.

⁴⁹He let loose on them his burning anger,
wrath, indignation, and distress,
a company of destroying angels.

⁵⁰He made a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death,
but gave their lives over to the plague.

⁵¹He struck down every firstborn in Egypt,
the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.

⁵²Then he led out his people like sheep
and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

⁵³He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid,
but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

⁵⁴And he brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had won.

⁵⁵He drove out nations before them;
he apportioned them for a possession

and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

⁵⁶ Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God

and did not keep his testimonies,

⁵⁷ but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers;

they twisted like a deceitful bow.

⁵⁸ For they provoked him to anger with their high places;

they moved him to jealousy with their idols.

⁵⁹ When God heard, he was full of wrath,

and he utterly rejected Israel.

⁶⁰ He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh,

the tent where he dwelt among mankind,

⁶¹ and delivered his power to captivity,

his glory to the hand of the foe.

⁶² He gave his people over to the sword

and vented his wrath on his heritage.

⁶³ Fire devoured their young men,

and their young women had no marriage song.

⁶⁴ Their priests fell by the sword,

and their widows made no lamentation.

⁶⁵ Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,

like a strong man shouting because of wine.

⁶⁶ And he put his adversaries to rout;

he put them to everlasting shame.

⁶⁷ He rejected the tent of Joseph;

he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,

⁶⁸but he chose the tribe of Judah,

Mount Zion, which he loves.

⁶⁹He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,

like the earth, which he has founded forever.

⁷⁰He chose David his servant

and took him from the sheepfolds;

⁷¹from following the nursing ewes he brought him

to shepherd Jacob his people,

Israel his inheritance.

⁷²With upright heart he shepherded them

and guided them with his skillful hand.

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 39

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" ¹⁰And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

¹¹But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. ¹³And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, ¹⁴she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. ¹⁵And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." ¹⁶Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. ¹⁸But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

¹⁹As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. ²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²²And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Work

- Praise God for his great mercy in calling you to himself and allowing you to participate in his work here in the city.
- Thank him for being the source of all wisdom and discernment that guides your daily work.
- Thank him for sending us missionally into diverse industries and work environments that we may declare his glories to the world through our labor.

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen. (BCP 833)

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)

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.