



# Formation Devotional

February 5, 2020 Morning

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

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*Enter into this time expectantly, knowing that God delights to reveal himself to you. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

## Opening Prayer

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 206)

## Confession of Sin

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful in our relationship with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our relationship with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
    bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good  
    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:1-5)

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## Praying the Psalms

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

### Psalm 51

#### Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words

and blameless in your judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

<sup>6</sup>Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;

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let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,

O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;

you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>18</sup>Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;

build up the walls of Jerusalem;

<sup>19</sup>then will you delight in right sacrifices,

in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

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## New Testament Reading

*Matthew was written for a Jewish audience. That's why he starts his gospel with a genealogy. Tracing the lineage of Jesus back to David would be significant to a Hebrew who was wondering if Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. In that light, Matthew's references to the Old Testament reminds us that Jesus is God's fulfillment of the Jewish law and the prophets. The Sermon on the Mount becomes the new identity for the people of God.*

*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.*

## Matthew 26

### The Plot to Kill Jesus

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

<sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup>But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

<sup>6</sup>Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup>a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. <sup>8</sup>And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

### Judas to Betray Jesus

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

### The Passover with the Disciples

<sup>17</sup>Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>18</sup>He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” <sup>19</sup>And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

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<sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup>He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

### **Institution of the Lord's Supper**

<sup>26</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

### **Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial**

<sup>30</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup>Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup>Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

### **Jesus Prays in Gethsemane**

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup>And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup>And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup>Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup>And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup>Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

### **Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." <sup>49</sup>And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then

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they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. <sup>51</sup> And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

### **Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council**

<sup>57</sup> Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. <sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup> And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

### **Peter Denies Jesus**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." <sup>71</sup> And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup> And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." <sup>74</sup> Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

#### **Church Community**

- Pray for Christ Covenants youth and children's ministry leaders: for joy, compassion, and energy as they serve the church and the city.

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- Pray for the global church, especially for Christians in Latin America: protection from drug-related violence, the prosperity gospel's false promises to be exposed, and Bible-based teaching.
  - Pray also for Christians in North America: for unity that transcends ethnicity, college ministries to reach international students and those falling away from faith, and boldness against spiritual complacency.

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).*