



Formation Devotional

July 1, 2020 Evening

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

Cling to Jesus and rest in him this evening, knowing that the Father sees you and loves you like his only Son. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. (Psalm 121:2-4)

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have revealed to your Church your 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 for ever. Amen. (BCP 251)

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 105

Tell of All His Wondrous Works

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

²Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

³Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

⁴Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

⁵Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

⁶O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

⁷He is the LORD our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

⁹the covenant that he made with Abraham,

his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁰which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,

to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

as your portion for an inheritance."

¹²When they were few in number,

of little account, and sojourners in it,

¹³wandering from nation to nation,

from one kingdom to another people,

¹⁴he allowed no one to oppress them;

he rebuked kings on their account,

¹⁵saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,
do my prophets no harm!"

¹⁶When he summoned a famine on the land
and broke all supply^{of} of bread,

¹⁷he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸His feet were hurt with fetters;
his neck was put in a collar of iron;

¹⁹until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the LORD tested him.

²⁰The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free;

²¹he made him lord of his house
and ruler of all his possessions,

²²to bind^{his} his princes at his pleasure
and to teach his elders wisdom.

²³Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

²⁴And the LORD made his people very fruitful
and made them stronger than their foes.

²⁵He turned their hearts to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.

²⁶He sent Moses, his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

²⁷They performed his signs among them

and miracles in the land of Ham.

²⁸He sent darkness, and made the land dark;

they did not rebel²⁸ against his words.

²⁹He turned their waters into blood

and caused their fish to die.

³⁰Their land swarmed with frogs,

even in the chambers of their kings.

³¹He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,

and gnats throughout their country.

³²He gave them hail for rain,

and fiery lightning bolts through their land.

³³He struck down their vines and fig trees,

and shattered the trees of their country.

³⁴He spoke, and the locusts came,

young locusts without number,

³⁵which devoured all the vegetation in their land

and ate up the fruit of their ground.

³⁶He struck down all the firstborn in their land,

the firstfruits of all their strength.

³⁷Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold,

and there was none among his tribes who stumbled.

³⁸Egypt was glad when they departed,

for dread of them had fallen upon it.

³⁹He spread a cloud for a covering,

and fire to give light by night.

⁴⁰They asked, and he brought quail,
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.

⁴¹He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.

⁴²For he remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, his servant.

⁴³So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.

⁴⁴And he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,

⁴⁵that they might keep his statutes
and observe his laws.

Praise the LORD!

Old Testament Reading

Numbers describes the preparations the Jews undertook to enter the land that God promised them. They come to the border of that land and send in spies, who are overwhelmed by the obstacles they see and bring back a report that the Jews won't survive there. God then forbids this generation of Jews to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief, and forty years of wandering in the wilderness ensues.

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

Numbers 14

The People Rebel

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ²And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not

be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. ⁶And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." ¹⁰Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? ¹²I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

Moses Intercedes for the People

¹³But Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, ¹⁴and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, ¹⁶'It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.' ¹⁷And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, ¹⁸'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.' ¹⁹Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

God Promises Judgment

²⁰Then the LORD said, "I have pardoned, according to your word. ²¹But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²²none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. ²⁴But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it. ²⁵Now, since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea."

²⁶And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, ²⁷"How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. ²⁸Say to them, 'As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: ²⁹your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty

years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, ³⁰not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. ³²But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. ³³And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.’ ³⁵I, the LORD, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die.”

³⁶And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land — ³⁷the men who brought up a bad report of the land — died by plague before the LORD. ³⁸Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.

Israel Defeated in Battle

³⁹When Moses told these words to all the people of Israel, the people mourned greatly. ⁴⁰And they rose early in the morning and went up to the heights of the hill country, saying, “Here we are. We will go up to the place that the LORD has promised, for we have sinned.” ⁴¹But Moses said, “Why now are you transgressing the command of the LORD, when that will not succeed? ⁴²Do not go up, for the LORD is not among you, lest you be struck down before your enemies. ⁴³For there the Amalekites and the Canaanites are facing you, and you shall fall by the sword. Because you have turned back from following the LORD, the LORD will not be with you.” ⁴⁴But they presumed to go up to the heights of the hill country, although neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed out of the camp. ⁴⁵Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Church Community

- Thank God for the pastoral staff who lead our church and serve our congregation with grace and wisdom.
- Thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us as we share our faith.
- Thank God for sending church planters to Columbia and for equipping them to be effective in their urban ministry.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are weary from the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 133)

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.