



# Formation Devotional

June 23, 2020 Evening

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

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*Come into this time just as you are, like a child who runs to his father's arms. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Return O my soul to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. (Psalm 116:7)

## Opening Prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and advance us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 832)

## 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 93

#### The LORD Reigns

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.

Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

<sup>2</sup>Your throne is established from of old;

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you are from everlasting.

<sup>3</sup>The floods have lifted up, O LORD,

the floods have lifted up their voice;

the floods lift up their roaring.

<sup>4</sup>Mightier than the thunders of many waters,

mightier than the waves of the sea,

the LORD on high is mighty!

<sup>5</sup>Your decrees are very trustworthy;

holiness befits your house,

O LORD, forevermore.

## 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 8

### The Seven Lamps

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to Aaron and say to him, When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.” <sup>3</sup>And Aaron did so: he set up its lamps in front of the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses. <sup>4</sup>And this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of gold. From its base to its flowers, it was hammered work; according to the pattern that the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

### Cleansing of the Levites

<sup>5</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>6</sup>“Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and cleanse them. <sup>7</sup>Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then let them take a bull from the herd and its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you

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shall take another bull from the herd for a sin offering. <sup>9</sup>And you shall bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the whole congregation of the people of Israel. <sup>10</sup>When you bring the Levites before the LORD, the people of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites, <sup>11</sup>and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the people of Israel, that they may do the service of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, and you shall offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the LORD to make atonement for the Levites. <sup>13</sup> And you shall set the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and shall offer them as a wave offering to the LORD.

<sup>14</sup>“Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine. <sup>15</sup> And after that the Levites shall go in to serve at the tent of meeting, when you have cleansed them and offered them as a wave offering. <sup>16</sup>For they are wholly given to me from among the people of Israel. Instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the people of Israel, I have taken them for myself. <sup>17</sup>For all the firstborn among the people of Israel are mine, both of man and of beast. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them for myself, <sup>18</sup>and I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel. <sup>19</sup>And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the people of Israel, to do the service for the people of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement for the people of Israel, that there may be no plague among the people of Israel when the people of Israel come near the sanctuary.”

<sup>20</sup>Thus did Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the people of Israel to the Levites. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, the people of Israel did to them. <sup>21</sup>And the Levites purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes, and Aaron offered them as a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them. <sup>22</sup>And after that the Levites went in to do their service in the tent of meeting before Aaron and his sons; as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

### **Retirement of the Levites**

<sup>23</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup>“This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting. <sup>25</sup>And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more. <sup>26</sup>They minister to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites in assigning their duties.”

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

### **Gospel Identity**

- Thank God for encouraging you through fellowship among other believers.
- Thank God for actively working in your relationships and shepherding groups right now.
- Thank God for giving us his son, the foundation of the church and the cornerstone that holds us together as one body.

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Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illuminate this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; 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)

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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).*