



Formation Devotional

March 13, 2020 Morning

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

Remind yourself that this morning marks another day to enjoy and glorify God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. (Psalm 90:14)

Opening Prayer

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 234)

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a burden of guilt and shame. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

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

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

Praying the Psalms

Read the psalm prayerfully back to God by faith in 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 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 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 rebel 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!

New Testament Reading

Luke was a Gentile (non-Jewish) physician who wrote for sophisticated non-Jewish readers. He records in great detail in order that Gentile readers would understand the universal appeal of the gospel. Luke also wrote the book of Acts.

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.

Luke 9

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ²and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. ³And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. ⁴And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. ⁵And wherever they do not receive

you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.”⁶ And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Herod Is Perplexed by Jesus

⁷Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead,⁸ by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen.⁹ Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹⁰On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida.¹¹ When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.¹² Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.”¹³ But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.”¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”¹⁵ And they did so, and had them all sit down.¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹⁸Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”¹⁹ And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.”²⁰ Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

Jesus Foretells His Death

²¹And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,²² saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²³And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

The Transfiguration

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah” — not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. ⁴⁰And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

Jesus Again Foretells His Death

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴“Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.” ⁴⁵But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Who Is the Greatest?

⁴⁶An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

Anyone Not Against Us Is For Us

⁴⁹John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

A Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village.

The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Prayers of Intercession

Neighborhood

- Pray for Christians in Columbia, that they would work in unity to spend themselves on behalf of the poor, hungry, and oppressed.
- Pray for families in crisis or struggling to make ends meet, that they would find the support from local church communities and the services from local organizations they need to thrive.
- Pray for our elderly neighbors who are living by themselves, without family close by, and experiencing the difficulties of aging in the city.

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)

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.